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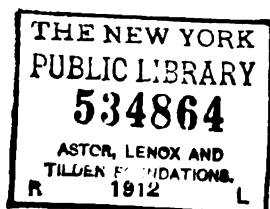
THE HISTORY
OF THE
TOWN AND CASTLE
OF
TAMWORTH,
• IN THE COUNTIES OF STAFFORD & WARWICK.
BY
CHARLES FERRERS PALMER.



TAMWORTH :
JONATHAN THOMPSON, BOOKSELLER, MARKET STREET.
LONDON : J. B. AND J. G. NICHOLS.

M.DCCC.XLV.

1845
JAN 10 1845
JAN 10 1845



ROY W. B.
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MAGN.



TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

SIR ROBERT PEEL, BARONET,

FIRST LORD OF HER MAJESTY'S TREASURY,

AND

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

FOR THE

Ancient Borough of Tamworth,

THIS WORK

IS, BY PERMISSION, MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY HIS OBLIGED AND OBEDIENT SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

1179
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PREFACE.

In presenting "THE HISTORY OF THE TOWN AND CASTLE OF TAMWORTH" to the public, and more especially to those connected with, and taking an interest in, these places, it is deemed that little apology is due. It might, perhaps, be thought that a work, the object of which was confined to a particular locality, lying in the midst of an agricultural district, and far removed from the busy scenes of the camp or the court, would afford only scanty matter claiming general interest, and deserving particular attention. But in the history of this town, there are found incidents of national importance, which elevate it far above the generality of similar places in the kingdom. Its great celebrity during the existence of the Mercian nation, and in Saxon ages when the heptarchy had been completely abolished; its ancient Church and Castle, with other remains which still stand amidst the ruins of the past; and its connection with some of the highest and most eminent men, both in early and recent times, render Tamworth worthy of notice to the historian, the architect, and the antiquary.

From its peculiar situation in two counties, Tamworth has, in one respect, laboured under great disadvantage. Writers have either confined themselves to one or other of the counties of which they might be speaking; or, if the limits of their subject embraced both, they have been enabled to give little more than a passing glance,

their field of observation being too extended to enter deeply into this part of their subject. It has, therefore, happened that, owing to the want of an investigation of the local records, a full history has never yet been given. It is true that, nearly twenty years ago, a "History of the Borough and Parish of Tamworth" was undertaken by John and Henry Wood Roby; but only one part of the work, including the general history to the termination of the Anglo-Saxon domination, ever appeared. The death of one of the gentlemen, and the residence of the other abroad, have prevented the probability of its being completed. Subsequently a publication, reflecting much credit on its author, was brought out, under the title of "Illustrations of Tamworth," by Etienne Bruno Hamel. It consisted of views and drawings of different parts, with a short description and condensed narrative. These constitute the whole of the endeavours dedicated solely to the elucidation of the history of this town.

Claiming Tamworth as his native place, the author of the present work naturally felt a deep interest in its welfare; and he spent much of his time in exploring its early history. At first, he did not contemplate that the result of his investigations should ever be laid before the public. But as matter accumulated in his hands, he was led to imagine that, at some period, he might publish the fruits of several years' labour. His researches, indeed, were extended much beyond the limits he anticipated, in consequence of his having been permitted to inspect the records of the Corporation and of the Church, and many valuable documents in the hands of private persons. Such advantages have enabled him to present the History to his readers.

It can hardly be supposed that a work, demanding the most extensive researches in the national archives, and in the collections of private families, should present that completeness and correctness which might be desired. Indeed, the author must acknowledge that, from circumstances over which he had no control, many deficiencies occur. Much interesting matter he has been compelled to omit, from his not having been able to discover the whole of the connecting circumstances, the records eluding his vigilance, or being placed beyond the range of his inspection. In fact, as the work progressed through the press, he was unexpectedly put into the possession of numerous facts, which served to add greatly to his subject. The principal of these have been embodied in the addenda. It is almost certain that future investigations will bring to light other matters, and indicate that the History gives little more than a general outline. But the author hopes that the errors which may exist are rather those of omission than commission, and that, in what he has given, much will be found that has hitherto been unknown, and that may prove of some importance to the historian and the antiquary.

Such as it is, this maiden effort of the author is now given to the public as a humble contribution to the topographical literature of the day. With neither of the works on the same subject previously alluded to, does the History assimilate. Although it has been unavoidably necessary to retrace the ground over which the Messrs. Roby passed, yet even there facts have been introduced which had escaped the observation of those erudite writers. In the style, it has been the author's principal object to express his meaning in a clear and

simple manner. Yet, striving to avoid the formality of antiquarian detail, and laxity by the adoption of too irrelative matter, he has endeavoured, at the same time, to engage the attention of the antiquary and excite the interest of the general reader. No remuneration has been sought: but should the author have succeeded in elucidating the History of the town of Tamworth and of its Castle, and in bringing this once illustrious place into greater notice, his labour will be amply rewarded.

It would be an unpardonable neglect on the part of the author, were he not publicly to acknowledge, and to express his thanks for, the very great kindness of many persons, who have, with almost unprecedented liberality, aided him in his researches and enquiries. To the right honourable sir Robert Peel, bart., thanks are especially due, not only on account of the interest which he has expressed in the History, but also for the liberal offer of the use of his extensive library at Drayton-manor, rich in topographical works, and for search made by his direction in the British Museum regarding the subject of the earl of Richmond's passage from Lichfield to Tamworth. Sir George Chetwynd, bart., of Grendon-hall, Warwickshire, furnished some important matter, particularly to the account of the local tokens. To the rev. Francis Blick, and the rev. R. C. Savage, late vicars of Tamworth, the author owes the use of the Parish-registers, and the principal particulars of the royal Mintage, and of the population. The present vicar, the rev. E. Harston, afforded him the aid he needed regarding the National School. To the rev. John Moore, of St. Chad's, Birmingham, he is indebted for the free use of the very valuable library

belonging to the Roman Catholic bishop: and to the rev. James Kelly, of Tamworth, for much information. The municipal body, and the town-clerk, Francis Willington, esq., he must thank for access to the extensive records belonging to the town: Thomas Bramall, esq.; E. B. Hamel, esq.; F. J. Hamel, esq.; Mrs. Woody, of the Moat-house; Mrs. Roby, of Bridgenorth; and numerous others, for the use of many and very important documents. The author is also bound to acknowledge the kindness he has experienced from the late vicar and churchwardens, in being permitted every facility which he needed in his investigations through the Church, particularly for allowance unhesitatingly granted to expose the painting on the wall of the south Transept. Such liberality demands particular notice at a time when it is seldom exhibited; and it is more deserving of acknowledgment in the peculiar position in which the author was placed.

The author considers that he ought not, in conclusion, to omit giving his meed of praise to the publisher, through whom the History has been destined to appear much sooner than had ever been anticipated. The production of the work, at this time, is entirely owing to his enterprising spirit; which he has effected at a trouble and expense which the limited sale of a local history cannot remunerate. His merits at the hands of the public will not be lessened by such faults as may occur in the compilation itself: for these the author alone must be responsible.

C. F. P.

8, Great Charles St., Birmingham.

December 1st, 1845.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE.
Map of the Borough of Tamworth	Frontispiece.
Silver penny of Edward the Confessor	49.
Silver penny of William the Conqueror	50.
Arms of the family of Willington	129.
Penny token of John Harding	153.
Half-penny token of the rev. F. Blick	153.
View of Tamworth from the South	175.
Common Seal of the Collegiate Church	222.
Arms of the family of Repington	231.
Arms of the family of à Court	238.
Interior of the Crypt in the Church.. .. .	253.
Ancient inscription on the wall of the Crypt	255.
Section of the staircase in the Church-Tower	270.
Arms of the family of Townshend	377.
Ground-plan of the Castle	404.
Arms of the family of Peel.. .. .	436.
View of Drayton Manor	439.
Bolebridge and the Anker Viaduct	486.
Arms of the family of Wolferstan	496.

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HISTORY OF TAMWORTH.

SITUATION.

When in its banks no longer flows
The Anker's clear and sparkling stream,
And Tame withholds its gentle course,
Thy memory, Tamworth, as a dream,
Shall, by tradition's voice alone,
Then be told,
Thy place forgotten, but as one
Once of old.

The town of Tamworth lies on the northern banks of two rivers, the Tame and the Anker. The western part is placed in the southern division of the hundred of Offlow in Staffordshire, and the eastern, which is rather the larger, in the Tamworth division of that of Hemlingford in Warwickshire. From the situation of the Church, the town is generally considered as belonging to the former county. Its distance from the metropolis is 102 miles in a direct line, or 120, by the London and Birmingham and the Derby Junction railways. It is also 24 miles from Stafford; 7, from Lichfield; 28, from Warwick; 15, from Birmingham; and 19, from Coventry. It is in the diocese of Lichfield, in the rural deanery of Tamworth and Tutbury, and within the jurisdiction of the archbishop of Canterbury. Its latitude is $52^{\circ} 38' 27''.5$ N., and its longitude, $1^{\circ} 40' 12''$ W.; so that all astronomical phenomena occur $6' 40''.8$, or about one-ninth of an hour, later than at the royal observatory at Greenwich.¹

¹ Roby's History of Tamworth.

The situation of Tamworth, for the richness of its scenery and the fertility of its soil, ranks highly among those parts of England, on which nature has laid her bounteous hand, and bestowed some of her choicest favours. Though possessing none of the majestic grandeur found alone in mountainous parts, it exhibits all those soft and pleasing traits which meadow, hill, and woodland can afford. Placed on the side of a rising ground that has a southern aspect, the town is protected, in a great measure, from the bleak north. The direction of the surrounding country is the same, being more or less hilly on three sides, whilst on the south a widely extended valley lies open, diversified by the gentle windings of the river.

The neighbourhood is highly cultivated, being one of the first agricultural districts in the centre of the kingdom. It has been long noted for the excellence of its fruits and other vegetable productions, some being preferred even to those of the vale of Evesham, though not cultivated to so great extent as there and in different parts of Worcestershire. Many other important advantages also accrue to Tamworth from the peculiar geological characters of its situation. The town seems to constitute the point for the meeting of four different formations. On the north, red marl occurs, extending to the extremity of Derbyshire, and then passing across the middle of Staffordshire. The clay by the town has been used, for a very considerable period, in manufacturing bricks. On the east, is a large coal-field, affording fuel of a superior quality; and, for many years, pits have been worked at Kettlebrook within two miles, as well as near Polesworth and Atherstone at a greater distance. Passing from the south east to the edge of the town, is a

narrow band of the formation known as that of the mill-stone grit, from whence a very good material may be obtained. The remaining country, including the whole of the east and a greater part of the south, consists of new red sand-stone, occupying the whole of the south of Staffordshire, in the midst of which lie the coal beds of Dudley, Bilston, and Cannock. On the west, at Hints, Hopwas hays, and Tamhorn park, a high range of hills formed of gravel and sand-stone uprears itself, covered with extensive woods, relics of the ancient forest of Arden.

It is irrelative to the object of our present undertaking to enter fully into the details either of the geology, or of the zoology, or botany, of the district. What we have said has only been intended to give a general idea of the characters of the situation of Tamworth. The consideration of these branches of science would well occupy a separate work. Here a large field is extended that has never been fully examined, though it once formed the subject of the researches of Willoughby, and and afforded ample scope for the investigations of the celebrated Ray. The book of nature lies widely open, inviting each one to read its spotless page, and partake of its pure and chaste delights. There may the busy find relaxation from his toils, and the idle, employment for his mind. The innocent may drink of clear and unpolluted streams of knowledge, and the guilty learn where true and unfailing pleasures may be found. In His works, who maintains the lowest creature there, a source of lasting contemplation is afforded to the faithful. The infidel too may see, written in clear and effulgent characters, the laws and order of nature, that disprove the existence of the mere chance, he fain would

exalt as the creating and legislative power of the universe.

Nor yet, in conclusion, should we neglect to point out those objects in the neighbourhood worthy of the notice of the antiquary. He too, who loves to dwell on scenes of former days, may visit, within the compass of a few miles, spots whose very names echo the voice of ages fled, and bring again remembrance of the past. Not far away still stand the mouldering ruins of the earliest convent in these parts, raised by the great monarch Ecgberht as a habitation for his daughter Editha, whom Modwen taught and Lyne and Osythe led. There are also other cloister shades, the walls now changed to a different use, once the recluses' dwelling. The high mound still marks the battle field where Saxons fought, and the Mercian king was slain by an usurper, who himself, in his turn, was doomed to fall before the expiration of the year. The tombs where Romans sleep may partly yet be seen, known as the butts of Robin Hood, because, as tradition tells, he often there exercised his skill with his merry company. Many other objects of equal interest still remain around the town, to which we cannot particularly allude in this place.

RIVERS.

THE TAME.

Flowing from numerous sources south of Cannock chase, in the neighbourhood of Dudley, Oldbury, Walsall, and Wednesbury in Staffordshire, the Tame takes its course by Hampstead house and Perry hall. Curving south east, it enters Warwickshire, passes north of Aston, and then receives on the right Hockley brook, and the river Rea, the Styx of modern times after a passage through Birmingham from near Moseley. Continuing to the north of Castle Bromwich, East brook from about Sutton Coldfield joining it at Berwood hall, by Water Orton, and to the south of Curdworth, it is increased on the right hand at Marston park by the united waters of the Cole and Blythe. The former of these rivers commences by several heads about Sheldon and Yardley, runs through Coleshill park, by Coleshill, and then hastens to its junction with the Blythe. The latter springs from about Bickenhill and Meriden, and, on the west of Packington, assumes a northward course between Coleshill and Maxtoke castle to Blythe hall, and soon after terminates. The Tame, about a quarter of a mile farther, is augmented by the river Bourne, originating in two streams, one from between Fillongley and Ansley, the other from near Bentley. Skirting Lea Marston, it then pursues a northern direction to Kingsbury, receives Thistlewood brook on the right, and then continues by Cliff

hall. Between this place and Dosthill, it is added to on the left, first by Langley's and Collett's brooks from the east of Sutton Coldfield and Canwell; secondly, by Gallows brook; thirdly by a long stream, from Canwell and Basset's pole, which runs between Drayton Basset and Middleton, and constitutes in the greater part of its course the boundary of the counties of Warwick and Stafford. The Tame, after being increased by the Black or Bourne brook coming from near Weeford and Hints, then enters the borough of Tamworth, and flows east of Fazeley to the town, forming from a little distance off Gallows brook the line of demarcation between the above stated counties.

After the confluence of the Anker with it, the Tame turning westward wholly re-enters Staffordshire, waters the edge of the town, continues by Millfield and Alder-mills, and, assuming again its northern direction, passes by Hopwas hays and Tamhorn park to Comberford, where it leaves the borough. At Elford, it makes a bend to the west, but suddenly resumes its former course at Fisherwick, runs by Croxall, and falls into the Trent not far from the junction of the Mease with that river.

At Tamworth, the banks of the Tame are 150 feet above the level of the tide of the Thames at Brentford.¹ It was once proposed to render the river navigable from the Trent to this town; and, on the 20th of December, 1759, the bailiffs and commonality, with the inhabitants of Birmingham, Burton-on-Trent, and the neighbouring parts, presented a petition for that purpose to the lower house of parliament.² But soon afterwards the scheme, which would have involved immense expense, was prudently abandoned.

¹ Pitt's Agriculture of Staffordshire.

² Journal of the Commons. Roby's Hist. of Tamworth.

THE ANKER.

The Anker, commencing in many heads between Wolvey and Withybrook in Warwickshire, runs to the left of Burton Hastings. Turning from north west to west, it passes Chilvers Coton (where it receives on the left Griff brook), continues northward through Nuneaton, and winds in its first direction by Weddington, Caldecote, and Mancetter to the old Roman road, the Watling street. For about three miles farther, it forms the boundary of the counties of Leicester and Warwick, going on by Witherley, and receiving above Atherstone the Sence on the right hand. The river Sence, lying wholly in Leicestershire, rises east of Bardon hill in Charnwood forest, runs by Hugglescote, and, joined by Blower's brook from Ravenstone, continues south west by Heather, Shakerstone, and Congerstone, to Sheepy, being then united to the main trunk of another origin. This southern Sence has its source about Market Bosworth, Stapleton, Dadlington (by which the Tweed, a river near from Hinckley, falls into it), and Stoke Golding, passing by Sibson and Radcliffe Culey in its way. The Anker flows on by Grendon, Polesworth, Pooley hall, then, entering the borough of Tamworth, by Alvecote priory, now a private residence, and Amington. Curving round southwards, and skirting Bolehall and the Warwickshire part of the town, it mingles its waters with those of the Tame beneath the Castle grounds.

The characters of the two rivers are very diverse even near their point of junction, some plants being often confined to one alone. The Tame is in general shallow and slow in its course, whilst the Anker is deep, narrow, and winds considerably. Michael Drayton, the poet, born at Hartshill, a village a few miles distant from this town, has commemorated the latter river in one of his sonnets entitled "Idea," where he addresses it in behalf of the imaginary idol of his soul, in rhymes as sparkling as the ripples of the stream itself.

"Cleere Ankor, on whose silver-sanded shore
 My soule-shrin'd Saint, my faire Idea lies,
 O blessed brooke, whose milke-white swans adore
 That chrySTALL streame refined by her eyes,
 Where sweete myrrh-breathing Zephire, in the spring,
 Gently distills his nectar-dropping showers,
 Where nightingales in Arden sit and sing
 Amongst the daintie dew-impearled flowers ;
 Say thus, faire Brooke, when thou shalt see thy Queene,
 Loe heere thy Shepheard spent his wand'ring yeares ;
 And in these shades, dear Nymph, he oft hath beene,
 And heere to thee he sacrific'd his teares :
 Faire Arden, thou my Tempe art alone,
 And thou, sweet Ankor, art my Helicon."

In another of his poems, the 13th of the Polyolbion, but in less pleasing strains, he celebrates the approaching marriage of the two rivers at Tamworth.

NAME.

There is an insurmountable difficulty in determining the derivation of the name of Tamworth with any degree of certainty or satisfaction. Owing to the obscurity in which the origin of the town is involved, it is not known whether it was first built by the Saxons, or whether it existed previously to their arrival in this country. It is therefore impossible to ascertain if we should have recourse to the British or the Saxon language.

However, the first part of the name is clearly taken from the river Tame. Lhwyd states that the British for a stream in general was *Taf* or *Tav*, the final letter of which was changed by the Romans into *m*, whence came the names of several rivers in England, as the *Thames*, *Thame*, *Tamar*, and *Tame*.¹ But in supposing this alteration might have been made to conform with the Greek for a river, the first syllable being rejected, he certainly advances an opinion removed from any shadow of probability. It is as likely as that the English should alter a Gaelic or other foreign term to suit some mutilated French word for somewhat similar sound and expressive of the same object. Dugdale deduces *Tame* from the gentle flowing of the water, as *Arrow* received its designation from the swiftness of its course.²

¹ Lhwyd's *Adversaria*, subjoined to Baxter's *Glossarium*.

² Dugdale's *Warwickshire*.

With respect to "worth," the termination of the names of many other places in the kingdom besides this, a very great difference exists. Though all authors are unanimous in considering it to be Saxon, they are neither agreed as to the exact word, nor even as to the meaning of the same term. Gibson¹ and Bailey² deduce it from worth, a court or farm. Dugdale³ derives it from worthe, which he says is a mansion or dwelling place, and Bigland,⁴ a habitation or farm; but Somner,⁵ an entry, porch, or court yard. Gibson also gives another word worthig, which he calls a street or road; whilst Lye⁶ asserts that it is a small farm or field; and Lambarde,⁷ a close encompassing a mansion house, or the place of the site of a manor. Morant⁸ adopts worthige or worthe, a way through a river, a mansion or dwelling house, a farm or field, and in general a manor or estate. Another word weorth, Camden⁹ calls a river island, or place surrounded by water; Ingram,¹⁰ a village or town near the head of a river; Thomas,¹¹ a broad way, court, or place, to which ige, an island, is affixed; and Gibson, with Somner, Gough,¹² and Lye, a small farm. The latter also adopts weorthig or wurthig, a small farm or field; Bailey again, weorthige, a street or field; Manning,¹³ wurth, a considerable mansion or farm. And finally the termination is said to come from waert, a water farm.¹⁴

Amidst such contention in writers of high authority, it would be impossible to decide the meaning of this termination. But it is clear it cannot refer to the circumstance that the places, of whose names it forms a

1 Gibson's Sax. Chron. 2 Bailey's Engl. dict. 3 Dugdale's Warwickshire.

4 Bigland's Gloucestershire. 5 Somner's Sax. dict. 6 Lye's Sax. dict.

7 Lambarde's Dict. topogr. 8 Morant's Essex. 9 Camden's Britannia.

10 Ingram's Sax. Chron. 11 Thomas's Dugdale. 12 Gough's additions to Camden.

13 Manning's Surrev. 14 Lewis's Topog. dict. of Engl.

part, lie in the neighbourhood of a river, for many are neither placed by any stream nor even in marshy land, so as to afford a probability to the suppositions of those who make the presence of water essential to their conjectures. Beyond this we can offer no suggestion. It must be left for those deeply versed in philological speculation to determine whether "worth" may signify a great farm or a little farm, a dwelling house, a close encompassing a mansion, the site of a manor, an estate, field, broad way, street, road, entry, court yard, or porch.

An insuperable obstacle to the discovery of the etymon, arises from the diversity of modes in which proper names were anciently written. This was owing to the absence of fixed rules of orthography among our ancestors, a circumstance almost necessarily occurring before the mode of speedily multiplying and diffusing literary works by the art of printing, was discovered. These variations have also been undoubtedly increased, in a very great degree, by the modification of the names themselves during the lapse of time. The Danish conquest, and more especially that of the Normans from its permanence and completeness, occasioned much confusion by the introduction of a foreign pronunciation, which would naturally lead to a change correspondingly great in the spelling.

Of the numerous and often singular manners in which Tamworth has been written, we give the principal, adopting the list collected by Roby, but with several alterations and additions. The dates refer to the ages of the documents that they are found in.

In 781, Tamoworthie, Tamoworthige.¹ In 814, Tomoworthig, Tomoworthin.² In 840, Tomeworthie.³ In 841, Tomanworthie, Tomanwordie, Tomeuuorthie, Tomeweor-

1 Offa's charters. 2 Coenwulf's charters. 3 Berhtwulf's charter.

thing.¹ In 845, Tomeuuorthig.² In 855, Tomanworthigne.³ In 857, Tomanuuorthig.⁴ In the 10th century, Tameweorthige, Tameweorthige, Tamanweorthe, Tameweorthe, Tameworththige, Tamewurthe, Tamanweorthige.⁵ In the same century, Tamewrthe.⁶ In 1002, Tamwurthin.⁷ In 1059, Tamawordina.⁸ In 1066, Tonwvrth, Tonwyrth.⁹ In 1086, Tamuuorde.¹⁰ In 1115, Tamwrda.¹¹ In 1118, Tomewordina, Tomwrthigme, Tomweorthe.¹² In 1148, Tamewrthe.¹³ In 1150, Thamewrthe.¹⁴ In 1164, Tameweorde, Tomwirthig.¹⁵ In 1198, Tamuirting, Tamewrde, Tamneting.¹⁶ In the same year, Tamesworthe.¹⁷ In 1216, Thamwrthe.¹⁸ In 1272, Tamewurthe.¹⁹ In 1284, Tammeworthe.²⁰ In 1291, Thomwurth, Thamwurth.²¹ In 1303, Tammorth, Tammorthe.²² In 1357, Thomewurth, Thaniwurth.²³ In 1359, Tamworht.²⁴ In 1377, Thameworth.²⁵ In 1418, Tunneworth, Tanwith.²⁶ In 1427, Tampworth.²⁷ In 1491, Tomworth.²⁸ In 1533, Thomworth.²⁹ In 1548, Tomwoorth.³⁰ And in 1560, Tameworth.³¹

Among the records of the town, we first find the name spelt in the mode adopted at the present time in 1304. Previously it was written Thamworth or Tameworth, and occasionally Tameworth.

- 1 Berhtwulf's charters. 2 lb. 3 Burgred's charters. 4 lb. 5 Sax. Chron. 6 Chron. of Melrose. 7 Will of Wulfic Spott. 8 Marianus, quoted by Camden and Shaw. 9 Coins of Edw. Confess. 10 Doomsday book. 11 M. S. quoted by Dugdale. 12 Florence of Worcester's Chronicon ex Chronicis. 13 Henry of Huntingdon's Historia. 14 Ealred's Genealogia Reg. Angl. 15 Simeon of Durham's De gestis Reg. Angl. 16 Roger Hoveden's Annales. 17 John Brompton's Chronicon. 18 Hugh White of Peterborough's Historia. 19 Robert of Gloucester's Metrical Chronicle. 20 Tamworth Court rolls, 12 E. I. 21 Taxation of P. Nicholas IV. 22 Tamworth Court rolls, 31 E. I. 23 Ralph Higden's Polychronicon. 24 Wigginton Court rolls, 32 E. III. 25 Matthew of Westminster's Flores Historiarum. 26 Tho. Rudborne's Historia Ecclesie Wintoniensis. 27 Tamworth Court rolls, 5 H. V. 28 John Rouse's Historia Reg. Angl. 29 Polydore Vergil's Angl. Historia. 30 Hall's Union of the families of Lancaster and Yorke. 31 Elizabeth's charter.

GENERAL HISTORY.

The origin of Tamworth is involved in the deep obscurity, thrown like a veil by the hand of time over the early history of our nation. Whether it formed one of the towns of the primitive inhabitants of Britain, is a question that can only be answered by conjectures of its great probability. These places in the central parts of the kingdom, inhabited, according to Ptolemy, by a tribe called Cornabii or Cornavii, were not composed of a collection of huts as on the sea coast, where the people were much more advanced in civilization from their intercourse with foreign nations. On the contrary, they were merely fortifications, consisting of a tract of densely wooded land surrounded by a bank and a ditch.¹ Into these the people were accustomed to retire when severely pressed by their enemies, and desirous of defending themselves from their attacks. In similar places too, the Britons were accustomed to celebrate the mysteries of their religion and erect altars, on which they immolated victims and paid a bloody homage to their gods.

In Britain, there were numerous forests where the inhabitants chiefly dwelt. One of the largest and most celebrated of these was that of Arden, the name of which appears to have been the Celtic for a forest in general from the occurrence of the word to designate

¹ Caesar, de Bello Gallico, lib. iv.

similar places in the north of France. It was bounded by the banks of the rivers Avon, Trent, and Severn, and by a line drawn from Burton-on-Trent to the ancient Roman station Bennones, the modern High Cross, where the Watling street and the Foss way intersect each other.¹ In the midst of this woodland, Tamworth or its site lay; its deep seclusion, its position by two streams, and the productiveness of the soil, rendering it a likely spot to be selected by our rude forefathers for the erection of a fortification and a place of refuge in necessity.

When the Romans had completely subdued this country, they divided it into five provinces, *Britannia prima*, *Britannia secunda*, *Flavia Cæsariensis*, *Maxima Cæsariensis*, and *Valentia*.² In the third of these, extending from the Thames to the Humber, Tamworth was placed supposing it then existed, a fact of which we have no direct proof. The town, however, lies scarcely more than a mile north of one of the Roman roads, the most remarkable of them, not only on account of its length, but also from the branches connected with it being more numerous than those of any other.³ The Watling street passes through the borough in its course between the ancient stations *Manduessedum* and *Etocetum*, the present villages of Mancetter and Wall. Another Roman road also ran directly through the town. "Wendley-way," says Shaw, "comes from the West end of Tamworth church, runs on the West side of Drayton Basset park, &c. The other way, it might have proceeded by Ashby and Nottingham to Southwell."⁴

To the statements of this learned antiquary, we are compelled, rather in a bold manner, to offer some ob-

1 Brewer's *Beauties of England and Wales*. 2 Richard of Cirencester.
3 Reynold's *Iter Britanniarum*. 4 Shaw's *Staffordshire*.

jections. It seems very doubtful whether Wendley way came from Drayton Basset into the Watling street at Fazeley, as none of the characteristics are found, by which such works of the Romans are usually known. For a similar reason, the continuance of the road between Tamworth and Ashby may be considered as extremely questionable and even improbable. Yet that a Roman way ran from Fazeley to Tamworth westward of the Church, we cannot dispute. It must have continued along Salter street in this town, through Wigginton, by Portway house, and through Harleston to Edengale. At the latter village, Plott actually mentions the occurrence of a Roman road;¹ and the whole way from Wigginton presents all the signs of such structures in general. The occurrence of Roman remains at Wigginton and other places in the neighbourhood of the line, confirms the opinion we have given. At Wigginton there was a large tumulus, now entirely carried away by the plough, and a similar one is found at a little distance from it, near Elford. The latter was opened by Plott in October, 1680, who, from the ashes and charcoal with several pieces of bone that he found in it, concluded at once that it was Roman. Shaw seems rather to consider the tumuli as those of Saxons slain in flight from the battle at Seckington; but, as Plott truly observes, these people never adopted the mode of burning the bodies of the dead, at all event after their arrival in this country.

After maintaining their conquests in this island for nearly 400 years, the Romans abandoned them about the middle of the 5th century. Finding themselves unable to resist the incursions of their enemies, the Britons were at length compelled to call in the aid of the Saxons, a

¹ Plott's Natural History of Staffordshire.

numerous and warlike race from the north of Europe. But after these people had successfully rendered their aid, treacherously turning round, they directed their arms against the Britons, and obtained almost daily fresh mastery over them. King Arthur, for a time, according to tradition, checked their career; but, when he passed away, they gained the field again.

The Saxons, as they subjugated the country, established eight kingdoms, Kent, Sussex, Wessex, East Anglia, Essex, Bernicia, Deira, and Mercia. The subsequent union of Bernicia and Deira, reduced the octarchy into an heptarchy. Mercia was the last kingdom formed, being founded in the year 585. It embraced the midland counties of England; but varied in size at different times, according to the success of arms, when the Saxons having few to contend with, began to make war upon each other.¹

From the time of the first Mercian king Creoda to the reign of Offa, Tamworth is not mentioned, though it probably formed the residence of some of the earlier kings, even before the introduction of Christianity. Eadvald or Ethelbald, who ascended the throne in 716, and held it for nearly forty years, was at last himself slain and his followers defeated, at Seccandune or Seckington, in a battle caused by the insurrection of his own army, headed by Beornred, one of the generals. This ambitious warrior seized the government; but he was compelled to fly from the country before the close of the first year of his usurpation, 755. He was overcome in fight by Offa, either grand nephew or second cousin of Eadvald, a young but valiant man, who was then elevated to the throne, as eleventh king of Mercia, by the unanimous consent of the nobles of the land.²

1 Turner's History of the Anglo Saxons. 2 Sax. Chron.

Soon after his accession to the crown, Offa came to Tamworth, where he caused a palace to be built of greater dimensions than was usual in those times. This, for its magnificence, was the admiration and wonder of the age.¹ He also then strongly fortified the town by surrounding it with a vast entrenchment and bank, the traces of which remain at the present day, and still retain the name of Offa's dyke, or the King's ditch. Thus Tamworth was either rendered for the first time a regal dwelling place, or as such received improvements which exigencies might require, or the bounty of royalty dictate. That it was previously honoured with the presence of kings, seems very likely from the proximity of the field of battle where Eadvald fell, Seckington being a small village about four miles distant. The town, however, became one of very great celebrity, and continued to be the favourite resort of Offa and of many of his successors, at least during the solemn festivals of Christmas and Easter. From hence they dated numerous charters to bishops and religious bodies of the realms.

With very rare exceptions, the ecclesiastical charters of this period have alone survived to our time. For when William the Conqueror seized the possessions of the Saxons and divided them among his followers, all previous grants which could not be shown to belong to religious foundations were rendered useless. The instruments by which they were made were probably in part lost, and in part destroyed by the Normans, in order to prevent the possibility of their being afterwards disturbed in the fair domains they had acquired. The charters ought generally to be regarded rather as deeds of sale or exchange than as donations; for it is evident, in

¹ F. Palgrave.

the majority of cases, the full value of the lands and privileges was given in money or otherwise by the parties to whom the gifts were made. Much doubt has been cast upon the validity of these celebrated documents, some authors seeming inclined to reject them altogether as forgeries that claims might be exhibited, which could not otherwise be substantiated. But this opinion is not based upon any rational authority, or is there any historical evidence to support it. The inaccuracies found in the copies of them made by annalists and others, seem to be entirely the result of inadvertence or carelessness in the transcription. Many of these faults have been detected. For instance, Hickes gives two charters of Athelstan, which he designates "egregious examples of fraud and imposture," bearing the date 670, a most glaring anachronism; and a third charter of the same king, in the same year, contains a similar error.

But on the discovery of the original autograph or duplicate of the last document in the archives of the dean and chapter of Canterbury, the true date, 937, was apparent, rendering it probable that Hickes' "egregious examples" owed their chief suspicious character to the faultiness of the the Normanno-Saxon copies he evidently used. Again, many have been condemned on account of the misapprehension of our historians on some point. The recent discovery of the distinction between Ethelgar, bishop of Selsey, afterwards archbishop of Canterbury, and a bishop of Crediton bearing the same name, has restored to honor and respectability more than twenty of these venerable records. In the same manner, it is reasonable to suppose that the weakened suspicion still

1 Hickes' *Dissertatio epistolaris*.

hanging over some others may be cleared away by future investigations.¹

Of the charters granted by Offa two only remain that bear date at Tamworth.

In 781, with the consent of his prelates and nobles, he confirmed to bishop Hathored and to the church of St. Peter at Worcester certain lands in Homtune and Fæhhaleage, exempting them for ever from all taxation. The charter was dated by the king on the second day of the nativity of our Lord, or the feast of the blessed Stephen (the 26th of Dec.), "in sede regali sedens in Tamoworthie;" and was subscribed by Cyne-thryth, queen; Eadberht, Hygeberht, Hathored, bishops; Brondan, Berhtwald, Eadbald, generals.²

At the same time, by another charter, Offa gave to the church of St. Mary at Worcester, lands at Icancumbe, exempt from royal tribute, &c., in exchange for other lands at Sapien. He subscribed himself "*gratia Dei donante Rex Anglorum, sedens in regali palatio Tamoworthie,*" written in another copy Tamoworthige. The following then added their consent: Cynethryd, queen; Eabberht, Hygeberht, Hathored, bishops; Brordan, Berhtwald, Eadbald, generals; Eadher, duke.³

Offa was a wise and able king, an experienced and intrepid warrior, and a great patron of learning. He extended his kingdom on every side, too often, indeed, by treachery and crime. When he came to the throne, Mercia included the counties of Stafford, Warwick, Worcester, Leicester, Hereford, Buckingham, Bedford, Rutland, Northampton, Huntingdon, Lincoln, Derby, Chester, and the largest proportions of Middlesex, Hertford, and Salop. To these he added by conquest

1 Cod. diplom. ævi Saxonici. Chart. Anglosax. 2 Hemingi Chartularium. 3 lb.

Nottingham, wrested from Northumbria,¹ and Oxford and Gloucester, from Wessex.² The remaining part of Shropshire, with portions of Denbigh, Flint, Radnor, and Montgomery, he took from Wales.³ Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridge were gained by the murder of Ethelberht, the East Anglian king, at a feast held during the celebration of that young prince's marriage with his third daughter, in 792, when he was dispatched by a hired assassin of the name of Guimberht.⁴ Offa also subjugated Kent; but he allowed its sovereign to retain a tributary crown.⁵ He died on the 10th of August, 794, after a reign of 39 years, and was succeeded by his only son Ecgfryth, whom he had previously associated with himself in the government of his kingdom.⁶

But all the endeavours of Offa were unable to secure the throne to his son. There was one enemy whose attacks no penetration could foresee or any policy prevent. The hand of death disappointed the hopes that he had formed, for Ecgfryth survived only 141 days. His death was generally considered as a judgment for his father's crimes. Such was the opinion of the learned Alcuin at the time.⁷ Truly the malediction of heaven seems to have rested on the family. Of the three daughters, the eldest Eadburga became infamous for her licentiousness and cruelty. Her husband Beorhtric, king of Wessex, being poisoned by the wine she intended for another, she fled to France for refuge. Charlemagne, on account of the friendship he had entertained for her father, placed her in a convent. But scarcely had the vows of chastity passed her lips than they were broken, and disgraced, she was expelled from the sacred walls,

1 John Brompton. 2 Sax. Chron. 3 Turner's Anglo Saxons. 4 Will. Malmsh.
5 Sax. Chron. 6 Ib. 7 Letter in Leland's Collectanea.

and terminated her career at Pavia, a houseless mendicant, still guilty as before.¹ Elfleda, the second daughter, became an outcast when her husband Ethelred, king of Northumbria, was slain in an insurrection of his own subjects, a fate his tyranny brought upon him.² The youngest daughter Etheldritha, who had been the unconscious means of luring the East Anglian king to his doom, was perhaps the most fortunate of all, at least if we look beyond the range of time. She took the veil at Croyland in Lincolnshire, and there passed her life in peace, living, however, to see the downfall of her father's kingdom and its subjection to Wessex.³ Thus futile is the end of crime.

After the decease of Ecgfryth, Coenwulf ascended the throne as the thirteenth king of Mercia. His connexion with the family of Offa was very distant, both tracing their ancestry to Wybba, under whose father Creoda the kingdom was established.⁴

Coenwulf was one of the sovereigns who resided at Tamworth, as two of his charters bear record.

In the first of these, with the advice and consent of his nobles, he exchanged certain lands with his faithful and venerable bishop Deneberht and the church of Worcester, for the monastery of Bitumeum and land on the western bank of the Severn. The charter, dated "anno DCCCXIII, in vico celeberrimo qui vocatur Tomoworthig, die VII kl. Januarii" (the 26th of Dec.), concluded with the invocation of a blessing on any one securing or increasing the gift, and a denunciation of separation from God and the saints, against any destroying or diminishing it. It was signed by Coenwulf, king

1 Sim. of Durham. 2 Ib. 3 John Brompton.

4 Matth. of Westm.

of the Mercians ; Wulfred, archbishop ; Ælfthryth, queen ; Ealdulf, Werenberht, Deneberht, Wlfheard, bishops ; Heardberht, Beornoth, Dywna, Ceolberht, Mucel, dukes ; Ceolwulf.¹

In that year also, another charter was given by the king to the same bishop and church, conferring on them certain lands in Sture or Stowre, free from all taxes, except those particularly specified, and to be enjoyed as long as Christianity should remain in the region. It was dated "in vico celeberrimo qui vocatur Tomoworthin"; and, after invoking increase of life and property on the preservers and augmenters, and threatening infringers with the wrath of God, was subscribed by Cenulf, king of the Mercians ; Ælfthryth, queen ; Aldulf, Werenberht, Deneberht, bishops ; Heardberht, Beornoth, dukes ; Eadgar, Wigberht, priests ; Sigreth, Eadwulf, ministers.²

The reign of Coenwulf was one of continued success ; and he maintained his kingdom in the predominant position, to which it had been elevated by Offa. He was engaged, perhaps, in fewer battles than the generality of Anglo-Saxon monarchs, and never but once assumed the position of an aggressor. The principal scenes of his warfare were Kent and Wales. On his first accession to the throne, being young and ardent, he appears to have yielded, for a time, to motives of ambition. He then entered Kent with a large army, and, deposing the sovereign, placed his brother Cuthberht on the throne.³ But afterwards he seems to have resigned his desires of acquiring new territories and devoted all his energies to secure the prosperity and happiness of his people. When Eardulf, the Northumbrian king, prepared, in 801, to invade Mercia, he was speedily in arms to repel the

¹ Hemingi Chartularium.

² Ib.

³ Will. of Malmesbury.

enemy. But the prelates, with some nobles of each nation, having assembled in a council, exerted all their endeavours to prevent the occurrence of war, and Eardulf was persuaded to give up his intentions. A treaty of peace was then proposed into which both kings gladly entered, and afterwards kept with the greatest fidelity.¹ The attack made by Coenwulf, a short time previously to his death, upon the kingdom of Powys in Wales, seems to have been caused by an incursion of the Welsh into the Mercian frontier.²

Coenwulf, of whom all the ancient annalists speak in the highest terms as a just and pious king, closed his happy reign in 819.³ John Brompton says that he was slain in a sudden insurrection of the East Anglians, whose domains Offa had retained. All other historians are silent as to the cause of his decease, whilst Henry of Huntingdon expressly asserts that he died a natural death. This opinion seems by far the most probable, as the East Anglians did not throw off the Mercian yoke till six years subsequently.

Tamworth is not mentioned again for some time. Mercia, indeed, became, during the space of nineteen years, a continued scene of intestine commotion, fell with great rapidity, and at last became a tributary kingdom.

Kenelm succeeded his father Coenwulf when he was only seven years old. But, in the course of a few months, he was murdered at the instigation of his elder sister Quendred, who, dead to the gentle voice of affection, removed him in hopes of placing a lover on the throne, and of sharing the regal honours herself. Being enticed into a forest under a plea of hunting, the infant king

1 Sim. of Durham. 2 Lloyd's Hist. of Wales. 3 Sax. Chron.

was assassinated near Clent in Staffordshire, by a man named Ascebert, who concealed his body in a well overgrown with briars.¹

This tragical event has afforded the subject of one of Shenstone's elegies.

" Born near the scene for Kenelm's fate renown'd,
I take my plaintive reed, and range the grove,
And raise my lay, and bid the rocks resound
The savage force of empire and of love.

Fast by the centre of yon various wild,
Where spreading oaks embower a Gothic fane,
Kendrida's arts a brother's youth beguil'd ;
There Nature urg'd her tend'rest pleas in vain.

Soft o'er his birth, and o'er his infant hours,
Th' ambitious maid could every care employ ;
Then, with assiduous fondness, cropt the flow'rs,
To deck the cradle of the princely boy.

But soon the bosom's pleasing calm is flown ;
Love fires her breast, the sultry passions rise ;
A favour'd lover seeks the Mercian throne,
And views her Kenelm with a rival's eyes.

How kind were Fortune ! ah, how just were Fate !
Would Fate or Fortune Mercia's heir remove,
How sweet to revel on the couch of state,
To crown at once her lover and her love !

See, garnish'd for the chase, the fraudulent maid
To these lone hills direct her devious way ;
The youth, all prone, the sister-guide obeyed ;
Ill-fated youth, himself the destined prey.²

For a considerable time, the fate of Kenelm was unknown ; but it was at last discovered, according to the old story, by a scroll being found on the high altar of St. Peter's at Rome, dropped, it is said, by a dove.³

1 Will. of Malmesbury.

2 23rd Elegy.

3 Will. of Malmesbury.

It bore a Saxon couplet thus rendered in Latin :—

“ In Clent, sub spina, jacet in convalle bovina
Vertice privatus Kenelmus rege creatus.”

This may be translated into English in the following manner :—

In a lonely vale at Clent, where oxen range the field,
Headless royal Kenelm lies, beneath a thorn conceal'd.

After the discovery of the body, a church was built near the well, and both, remaining at this time, retain the name of St. Kenelm's.

The hopes of the fratricide Quendrid were justly disappointed ; for her uncle immediately ascended the throne under the name of Ceolwulf I.¹

This king had hardly reigned for more than a year, when he was driven out in a revolt among his subjects, and Beornwulf, an officer, usurped the government.²

Beornwulf's short sway was marked by little else than misfortune. He was completely defeated by Ecgeberht the Great, in a battle fought at Ellandun or Wilton, in the third year of his reign. Soon afterwards, being compelled to hasten into East Anglia to suppress an insurrection of the people, who sought to free themselves from the thralldom of Mercia, he was there slain in 825. Upon this, the East Anglians joined Ecgbert and surrendered themselves completely to him.³

Ludican, in attempting to regain the lost province and to avenge the death of his predecessor, was suddenly attacked unawares and put to death with five of his chief men or councillors.⁴

Withlaff, the next in succession, after a short endeavour to turn the tide of fortune, was overcome by the powerful king of Wessex, and Mercia subjugated.

¹ Flor. of Worcester. ² Matth. of Westminster. ³ Ib. ⁴ Will. of Malmesbury.

From the battle field he fled to Croyland, and sought sanctuary in the abbey. He was consigned for safety to the cell that Etheldritha usually held, who was thus doomed, before death should close her eyes, not only to witness the extinction of her family, but the downfall of the kingdom itself, which had cost her father such labour to exalt, and so much crime to render secure. The abbot of Croyland afterwards took upon himself the office of mediator between the royal fugitive and Ecgberht. He hastened to the court, and his entreaties and persuasions so far prevailed that Withlaff was restored to his crown, on condition that he should pay an annual tribute to Wessex as an acknowledgment of its superior sovereignty.¹ The terms seem to have been so mild, that the Mercians never attempted to throw off the easy yoke.

On the decease of Withlaff in 838, Berhtwulf succeeded,² in whose time Tamworth is mentioned in seven charters as a royal residence.

The first of these was superscribed, "*Alto et agio et omnipotentissimo deo nostro, ac sanctae et gloriosae Trinitati, uirtus, honor, et potestas sit in perpetuum. Amen.*" Dated on the 28th of March, 840, it recites that Berhtwulf, instigated by enemies, had taken away and given to others lands, called Stoltun, Uassanburna, Cyneburgingctun, Tateringctun, Codesuuelle, which had been previously granted to the episcopal see of Worcester, that is, to the church there. Upon this, bishop Heaberht, with his elders, proceeded at Easter, "*ad Tomeworthie,*" and produced his charters before the court, when the nobles of the realm decided that he had been unjustly despoiled. But it seems the bishop paid highly for the

¹ Matth. of Westminster.

² *Ib.*

restoration of his rights. He gave to the king four well-chosen war horses, a ring of the value of thirty mancuses,¹ a wrought dish of three pounds, and "duas albas cornas" of four pounds. To the queen, he gave two good horses, two stirrups of two pounds, and a golden cup of two pounds. After a denunciation against any king, prince, or man of other grade, who, deceived by diabolical avarice, should in future violate the gift, Berhtuulf signed his consent as king of the Mercians. Then followed the names of Saethryth, queen; Cyneferth, Heaberht, Berehtred, Cuthuulf, bishops; Eanmund, abbot; Hunberht, Mucel, Cyneberht, Aetheluulf, dukes; Eaduulf, Wigga, Eaduulf; Aethelheard, Dudda, Sigered, Mucel, dukes; Aelfred, Hwityse, Aldberht.²

By the second charter, Berhtuulf granted to the venerable bishop Heaberht, for a ring of the value of thirty-one mancuses, land at a place called by rustics Huiccewudu, in perpetual freedom. The grant was written "in loco qui dicitur Croppanthorn, et iterum, in natali domini, aet Tomanuuorthie (in another copy, Tomanwordie³), anno domini DCCCXLI, regis praefati III." The following subscribed:—Berhtuulf, king of the Mercians; Saethryth, queen; Cyneferth, Heaberht, Cuthuulf, bishops; Uuihtred, Eanmund, Ceorred, abbots; Mucel, Hunberht, Sigered, dukes.⁴

The third charter commenced with a quotation from the writings of St. Paul on the flight of time,⁵ and again from those of a sage sophist, who, in a catalectic verse, sang saying, "Non semper licet gaudere: Fugit hora qua iacemur." It then proceeded to grant to the venerable abbot Eanmund, and his fraternity at Bree-

¹ A mancuse was of the value of thirty Saxon pennies.

² Codex diplom. ævi Saxonici. Chart. Anglosax.

³ Hemingi Chartularium.

⁴ Codex diplom. ævi Saxon. Chart. Anglosax.

⁵ 1 Cor. cap vii. ver. 31.

dune, in perpetual alms, the freedom of their monastery from those called in the Saxon language *festingmen*, so long as the Catholic faith and the baptism of Christ should be preserved in Britain. For this immunity, the abbot and his holy congregation had given, "in famoso uico in Tomeuuorthie," a large silver dish, exquisitely wrought and of great value, and the sum of one hundred and ninety mancuses in pure gold. They had also sung, at twelve time, one hundred psalters, and one hundred and twenty masses, for the king, his dear friends, and all the Mercian nation. After the injunction in the name of the Omnipotent, the nine orders of angels, and all the elect of Christ, that the gift should remain inviolate, the charter was dated "anno dominicæ incarnationis DCCCXLI. Indictione IIII. in die natalis domini, in celebri uico on Tomeuuorthie." It was signed by Berhtuulf, king of the Mercians; Saethryth, queen; Cyneferth, Aldred, Berehtred, Heaberht, Cuthuulf, bishops; Eanmund, Uuihtred, Ceolred, abbots.¹

The fourth charter, dated "Anno incarnationis domini nostri Ihesu Christi DCCC^o XLI^o indictione IIII^a in die natalis domini, in celebri uico Tomeuuorthie," conferred upon bishop Heaberht a piece of land, occupied by one house, in a town called by rustics Myttun, to be enjoyed by the monks of St. Mary's at Worcester. After an injunction similar to that in the last, the gift was confirmed by Berhtuulf, king of the Mercians; Saethryth, queen; Heaberht, Kynefyrth, Berhtred, Cuthuulf, bishops; Uuihtred, Eanmund, abbots; Ceolred, Aethelheard, Hunberht, Aetheluulf, dukes; Eaduulf, Aelfred, Uuicga, Eadberht, ministers.²

Berhtwulf, in his fifth charter, which was not dated,

1 Codex diplom. ævi Saxonici. Chart. Anglosax.

2 Ib.

but is assigned to the year 841, granted to his minister Ecerht, for sixty pounds in pure gold and silver, certain lands, free from all services great and small. The preservers of the gift were then consigned to the keeping of the Holy Trinity, here and in heaven, and eternal malediction was invoked on those who should infringe it, unless they should make worthy amendment to God and man. "*Et hii testes aderant, qui hoc consenserunt, et cum signo sanctae crucis Christi firmaverunt*¹ in famoso loco qui dicitur Tomeweorthing quorum hic nomina notantur." Berhtwulf, king of the Mercians; Saethryth, queen; Tunberht, Ceolred, Cuthwulf, bishops; Hunberht, Aldberht, Æthelheard, dukes.²

By the sixth charter, the king, on payment of three pounds of silver, gave to Bishop Heaberht the perpetual freedom of land called Daeglesford. It was signed, "*in loco qui dicitur Tomanworthie, anno dominicae incarnationis. DCCCXLI. indictione III.,*" by Berhtwulf, king of the Mercians; Saethryth, queen; Cyneferth, Heaberht, Berehtred, bishops; Uuihtred, Eanmund, Ceorred, abbots; Mucel, Humberht, Cyneberht, Dudda, dukes.³

By the seventh and last charter, Berhtwulf, first calling to mind the transitory nature of earthly things, compared with the unfailing joys of heaven, and remembering the invitation of Jesus Christ, "Come to me all ye that labour and are burdened, and I will refresh you," granted, for the succour of his soul, to his venerable bishop Heabert, and the clergy at Wor-

¹ The general mode of signing the Anglo-Saxon charters was for each person to form a cross before his name. This, as a short declaration of faith, was the most solemn ratification of a deed, short of an actual oath, that could be made. Even now the custom is not completely lost, for those to whom the art of writing is still unknown usually substitute a cross for their names, not, however, attaching to it a religious meaning, but to have affixed over it the somewhat reproachful title of "their mark."

² Codex diplom. xvi Saxon. Chart. Anglosax.

³ Ib.

cester, the freedom from all services of the monastery by Eafene, called Ufera Stretford. For this, the bishop paid ten pounds in silver. The exemption was "ab omni iugo humanæ servitutis, ab omnibus sæcularibus tributis et vectigalibus; cum cunctis utilitatibus ad illam æcclesiam recte pertinentibus, campis uel siluiunculis, pascuis uel pratis, fluminibus uel piscationibus; ab opere regali, et pastu regis et principis, uel iuniorum eorum; ab hospitorum refectione uel uenatorum; etiam equorum regis, falconum, et ancipitruum, et puerorum qui ducunt canes. Quid plura? ab omni tribulatione noti et ignoti, magni et modici, libera consistit in æuuum, quamdiu fides Christianæ religionis apud Anglos in Brittannia insula permaneat." After the customary invocation of a blessing and a curse, the gift was dated "anno domini incarnationis DCCC^oXLV^o Indictione VIII^a in loco regali qui dicitur Tomeuuorthig, in natiuitate domini." It was signed by Berhtuulf, king of the Mercians; Saethryth, queen; Hunberht, Heaberht, Ciorred, Berhtred, Cuthuulf, Uuihtred, bishops; Eanmund, abbot; Aetheluulf, priest; Berhtic, son of the king; Mucel, Humberht, Aelfstan, Cyneberht, Aetheluulf, Mucel, Sigered, Dudda, Aldberht, dukes; Aelfred, Uuicga, Aethelheah, Eadgar, Uuiglaf, Eaduulf, Uulfred.¹

The commencement of Berhtwulf's reign was marked by irruptions of the Welsh into Mercia, in which they were generally successful. At length, in 843, calling in the aid of Ethelwulf, he completely routed them at Kettal, where their king Mervyn Vrych was slain.² Berhtwulf's government was then peaceable for eight years, till the Danes appeared, and his army was scattered by them. He died in 852, and Burgred suc-

1 Codex diplom. ævi Saxon. Chart. Anglo-sax. 2 Powell's Hist. of Wales.

ceeded as the twentieth king of Mercia, and the last recorded as being at Tamworth.

By charter, this sovereign granted to his faithful and dear prelate and friend Alhwin the freedom of the monastery called Bloccanleeh from the keeping of all hawks and falcons in the Mercian land, and of all hunters of the king and prince, except those in the province of the Hwiccii, and from some other services. The bishop paid three hundred shillings for this exemption, which, dated in 855, "*in uico celebre, q: a multis uocitatur tomanworthigne,*" was subscribed by Burhred, king of the Mercians; Aethelswyth, queen; Tumberht, Ceorred, Berehtred, Alhiwine, Cuthuulf, bishops; Humbriht, Aethelheard, Beornnoth, Aldberhti, Weremberhti, Mucel, dukes.¹

In another charter, Burgred, with the consent of his councillors, granted to his bishop Alhun, for sixty shillings of silver, a small portion of the liberty of the grazing land in Lundonia, where it was called Ceolmundingcharga, which was not far from Uuestgetum, with all privileges. After the customary benediction on preservers of the grant, and anathema on all infractors, unless they should make amends to God and man, the gift was dated "*anno dominici incarnatione DCCCLVII. Indictione uero v. in loco famosa, qui dicitur Tomanuuorthig, in sancta pascha domini*" (the 18th of April). It was agreed to by the following:—Burgred, king of the Mercians; Aethelswyth, queen; Tumberht, Ceored, Alhun, Byrhtred, Cuthuulf, bishops; Hunberht, Beorhtnoth, Ealdberht, Mucel, Athulf, Beornhard, Eadred, dukes.²

After the defeat of the Welsh, who, under the celebra-

¹ Codex diplom. svi Saxon. Chart. Anglosax.

² Ib.

ted Rodri-mawr, or Roderick the Great, attached Mercia in 853,¹ Burgred maintained his kingdom in profound peace for fourteen years. But it then hastened to its fall even as a tributary monarchy, becoming a prey to the Danes.

These northern adventurers first came into Britain "from the land of robbers" in 787, when a band of them in three ships made their appearance off the coast of Wessex, where they landed for the purpose of spolia-tion. After slaying one of the king's officers, with his attendants, who, taking them for merchants, and unsuspecting of treachery, went to learn whence they came, they re-embarked.² In 793, they made an incursion into Northumbria, murdered many of the inhabitants, regardless of age or sex, and, plundering the famous monastery of Lindesfarne or Holy Island, slew most of the monks there or carried them away, probably to suffer a more lingering and cruel death.³ But, for nearly forty years, they were deterred from repeating their predatory visits, in consequence of a severe disaster that befel them in the following year. They came in a large fleet to Northumbria, and ravaged the whole country, pillaging the convent of Tynemouth, and many other places. Offa sent aid to Ethelred, his son-in-law, the king, and the sea-robbers were compelled to fly before the Mercian troops to their ships, leaving behind them the spoil taken from St. Cuthbert's monastery. Just as they were setting sail, a very sudden and heavy storm came on, in which most of their ships were lost, and numbers of their warriors drowned. Several of the vessels were drifted on shore, and the pirates in them, being taken prisoners, were beheaded immediately on the sands by

¹ Sax. Chron., Hen. of Huntingdon.

² Sax. Chron.

³ *Ib.*

the country-people, who were infuriated at the loss of property they had sustained, and whose ears still rang with the piercing shrieks of females, and the cries of infants, the blood of whom now stained their once happy hearths.¹

In 833, these ferocious rovers again appeared in Britain and sacked the isle of Shepey. In the ensuing year, they came in thirty-five ships to Charmouth, in Dorsetshire, where a long encounter took place between them and the Saxons, without any decided advantage being gained on either side.² Their incursions now became frequent and continued with a harassing pertinacity which no defeats could subdue. Not satisfied with confining themselves to the coasts, they passed boldly into the interior, under the command of great and experienced leaders, and obtained easy conquests in the nation weakened by civil strife and divided by disaffection. In 851, they entered the Thames, with a fleet of three-hundred and fifty ships, and plundered the cities of Canterbury and London. They were encountered by Berhtwulf, king of Mercia; but his army soon fled in dismay before the enemy at Bensington. Afterwards they were attacked at Oakley, in Surrey, by the forces of Wessex, under Athelwulf and Ethelbald; who, after a most severe and protracted conflict, were left the conquerors in the bloody strife.³

In 866, a large body of Danes landed among the East-Anglians; who, terrified at the sight of the barbarians and desirous of preserving themselves, entered into a treaty with them. In the following spring, well provided with horse and arms, and joined by consider-

¹ Sax. Chron., Hen. of Huntingdon. ² Ib.

³ Sax. Chron., Hen. of Huntingdon.

able numbers from the north almost daily, they marched into Northumbria, and seized York. Osbriht and Ella, two competitors for the crown, on the appearance of the common foe, prudently waived their own claims to unite for the preservation of their country. But they both fell in the attempt to retake the city.¹

In the next year, 868, the Danes, having permanently established themselves in the north, marched into Mercia, under the command of two brothers, Ivar or Ingvar and Ubba, and took the town of Nottingham. Burgred called in the aid of Ethelred, king of Wessex, and his younger brother Alfred, and beset the town. But the Danes refused to risk an engagement in the open fields: so that, wearied out by the protracted siege and unable to maintain his large army, Burgred was compelled to make a treaty with his foes; and they were permitted retrace their steps unmolested into Northumbria.²

They soon began their devastating career again. In 869, they passed through Mercia into East-Anglia, plundering the whole country in their march, slaughtering numerous religious bodies and destroying the convents and churches. The monasteries of Bardney, Croyland, Peterborough, Ely, and Huntingdon, were levelled completely to the ground. The East-Anglians hoped that they should have escaped, on account of their former treaty; but they soon discovered their fatal error. After a short and ineffectual struggle, Eadmund the king was taken prisoner at Henglesdon, the present Hoxon. Having stedfastly refused to redeem his life by the renunciation of Christianity, he was first beaten with staves and afterwards bound naked to a tree and scourged. He was then made a mark for the arrows

¹ Sax. Chron., Will. of Malmesbury.

² Ib.

of his brutal victors; and at last his sufferings were terminated by decapitation. His martyrdom took place on the 20th of November, 870.¹

The Danes, having subdued that country, passed into Wessex, the sovereign of which, Ethelred, fell in opposing them. Alfred, who succeeded his brother, being borne down by his enemies and defeated at Wilton, entered into a treaty, by which he agreed not to afford aid to any other nation against them, if they would abandon his territories.²

Accordingly they quitted Wessex, in 872, and re-entered Mercia. Burgred, knowing his inability to expel the foe, purchased their absence by numerous valuable gifts; and they retired into Lincolnshire. Incited by the ease with which they found that they could extort these presents, they threatened, in the same year, another invasion; and received a second bribe for the confirmation of the last treaty. Again they poured into the miserable country, in 874, and settled in winter-quarters at Repton, in Derbyshire; where they destroyed the mausoleum of the Mercian kings. Burgred fled from his country, and sought refuge in Rome, where he soon after died and was interred in the church of St. Mary belonging to the English college. His wife, the only sister of Alfred, who had accompanied her husband, then became a nun in a convent at Pavia, where she died in 888.⁴ The Danes, now masters of Mercia, chose a Saxon officer, a traitor to his country, to be king as Ceolwulf II.; but, having excited their displeasure, he was deposed in 877,⁵ after a reign of three years. With him, Mercia fell as a kingdom never to rise again; having

1 Sax. Chron. Will. of Malms. 2 Matth. of Westm. 3 Ib., Sax. Chron.

4 Will. of Malmesbury.

5 Sax. Chron., Ingulf.

been established 292 years and ruled by twenty-one sovereigns.

Britain thus became reduced to a most deplorable state of ruin. Alfred, himself, was compelled for some time to remain concealed in the depths of the forest. This was the period of the scene, celebrated in history, between the fugitive and disguised monarch and the herdsman's wife. The Danes, meeting with but little opposition and totally regardless of treaties, spread throughout the land and destroyed the principal towns and fortresses. Among these, Tamworth became the victim of their atrocities; was completely razed to the ground and lay a mass of blackened ruins for nearly forty years. The annalists give dreadful accounts of the ravages of the Danes; and their narratives certainly have not been exaggerated. Their marches were accompanied by fire and slaughter, and famine followed in their trail. Men they slew without mercy, or degraded into slaves. Females shared the same unhappy fate, after having been subjected to the grossest insults which the passions could inflict. Infants too they did not spare; and it was frequently their savage sport to catch them on the spear's point, and after spinning them round aloft, to throw them on the ground to linger out their last few moments of life in agony.¹ No part of the land was exempt from the visits of the murderers. The Raven-standard reared itself on every side. Wherever it flew, like the darkling bird of superstition, it betokened woe and desolation, and the fierce war-cry, which announced its presence, foreboded too truly that death was at hand. Hope seemed to have withdrawn her gladdening smile for ever. But she was lingering with Alfred in concealment as her last resort.

¹ Hist. of the Northmen.

She accompanied him in every movement; and, sustaining him under every difficulty, drove away despair. She led him, in the harper's guise, into the midst of the enemies' camp to learn their secret schemes. She glided smiling over his lowly couch of sleep and whispered consolation in his ear. And sometimes, too, assuming the fierce tone of desperation, she urged the Saxons to the battle field and rallied them to the glorious struggle for life and liberty. Hope, though unseen, still hovered round amidst the dreary scene.

At last, Providence relaxed His chastening hand, which had lain so heavily on Britain because of her sins, and turned the scale of fortune in her favour. In 880, the magical banner of the Danes was struck down and captured, and one of their greatest chieftains killed, by Oddune, duke of Devonshire.¹ The loss of the celebrated Reufen or Raven filled them with consternation and dismay, and the Saxons with encouragement. Alfred, emerging from his hiding-place, led on his soldiers, and, taking the enemy unawares, cut the greater part of their army to pieces. The commander Gothrun and many others having been captured, an offer was made that, if they would embrace Christianity and assist in preventing the incursions of other Danes, their lives should be spared and land assigned them to hold in peace. These conditions were gladly accepted; and the Danes, exchanging the dark Raven-standard for the effulgent banner of the Cross, were established in East-Anglia, where they were soon engaged in the peaceful arts of agriculture and commerce.²

The remainder of Alfred's time was chiefly occupied in completing the subjugation of the Danes, whom he at

1 Will. of Malmesbury. Asser.

2 Saxon. Chron.

last established in the towns of Derby, Leicester, Lincoln, Nottingham, and Stamford. From that circumstance, these places obtained the name of the Five Burghes. He also now framed and compiled his celebrated code of laws, which, alike characterized by justice and wisdom, has earned for him the distinguished and deserved title of "the Great." He died in 901; and was succeeded by his son Eadweard the Elder.¹

Shortly after the destruction of Mercia as a sovereignty, the government of it was conferred, by Alfred, upon a Saxon duke named Ethelred, to whom the king had given in marriage his daughter Ethelflæda. Upon this, he assumed the title of subregulus or viceroy, although, in many of his charters, he stiled himself indifferently dux and ealdorman.² The office was merely nominal, until the Danes were overthrown by the illustrious monarch of Wessex. Eadweard the Elder confirmed the government to this nobleman jointly with his wife; and they held it till the death of the former in 912. At that time, Eadweard permitted Ethelflæda to retain her jurisdiction, with the exception of the cities of London and Oxford, which he took into his own hands.³

The "Lady of the Marches" appears to have inherited no contemptible portion of her father's wisdom and courage, and to have fully merited the high encomiums bestowed upon her by every historian, both ancient and modern. Bred up in the midst of continually impendent dangers and possessing an energy of mind which qualified her to take part in the state-councils both of her father and her husband, she imbibed the spirit of a warrior rather than that of a woman. After having

1 Sax. Chron. 2 Codex diplom. ævi Saxon. Chart Anglosax.

3 Sax. Chron.

given birth to a daughter, and suffered so severely as well nigh to have lost her life, she withdrew entirely from the marriage-couch and resigned all domestic concerns to aid in promoting the public welfare. Her heroic courage was particularly manifested in 916, when Hwgan, prince of Wales, attempted to regain the lands, of which Offa had dispossessed his predecessor. She completely destroyed his army and besieged him in his royal castle at Breconanmere, where she made his wife captive, with thirty-four of her attendants. Pursuing him in his flight to Derby, where he took refuge among the Danes, she beset the town and vigorously stormed it. Undaunted at the slaughter of four of her chief officers, the wardens of her person, who fell by her side, she continued to lead on her troops, until, one of the gates having been destroyed by fire, they entered the town and took the citadel, where the unfortunate Hwgan fell, maintaining an heroic struggle to the last.¹

One of the greatest cares of Ethelflæda to secure the prosperity of her dominions, was the restoration of the principal towns and fastnesses, which had been destroyed in the late wars by the Danes. Tamworth was one of those which came under her earliest consideration, after the decease of her husband and her assumption of the whole government of Mercia. To this town she marched with her whole army, in the early part of the summer of 913. She caused it to be rebuilt: she restored the castle and all the fortifications; and, to increase its strength, raised a strong keep or dungeon upon a partly artificial mound, on which the present edifice has been erected in later times.² The town, after this happy event, became the general residence of the magnanimous

¹ Sax. Chron.

² Sax. Chron., John Rouse.

princess; and regained once more its former celebrity and importance.

Ethelflæda died at Tamworth on the 19 kalends of July,—the 13th of June,—920,¹ being then upwards of sixty years of age. Her body was conveyed to Gloucester and interred by the side of that of her husband, in the eastern porch or aisle of the cathedral of St. Peter there. The tomb was subsequently destroyed with the whole church, by the Danes; but Alured, bishop of Worcester, who was also made archbishop of Canterbury, repaired both the edifice and the monument.² Over the latter, was subsequently placed the following panegyric on this princely lady; written by Henry of Huntingdon, nearly two hundred and thirty years after her decease.

“ O Elfeda potens, O terror virgo virorum,
 Victrix naturæ, nomine digna viri.
 Tu quo splendidior fieres, natura puellam
 Te probitas fecit nomen habere viri.
 Te mutare decet, sed solum nomine, sexus,
 Tu regina potens, rexque trophæa parans.
 Jam nec Cæsarei tantum meruere triumpho;
 Cæsare splendidior, virgo, virago, vale.”

These lines have appeared repeatedly in various English forms; but we subjoin a new and very free translation.

O potent lady, great Elfed, dread of the alien host,
 The conquest e'en of nature's laws, thy manliness can boast.
 For though thou bear'st the soft impress of woman's feeble frame,
 Thy martial spirit renders thee worthy a hero's name.
 Change then, O king and queen at once, thy stern and valorous heart,
 The wonted mildness of thy sex let nature re-impart;
 Or take the warrior's hardy form, mount on the restiff steed,
 And to the plains where battles rage, victorious armies lead.
 Cæsars in vain their triumphs boast: a woman's deeds excel
 The splendid prowess Cæsar show'd. Chaste heroine, farewell.

¹ Sax. Chron.

² Holinshed's Chronicles.

Ethelflæda was succeeded in the government of Mercia by her daughter Healfwina or Alfwin.¹ But Eadweard the Elder, to whom her guardianship had been committed, for reasons which are not clearly understood, thought fit to deprive her of all authority. Three weeks before midwinter, when she had held power about half a year, he came into Mercia and carried her forceably with him into Wessex.² She is never again mentioned in the annals of history, so that her fate is unknown. It is probable that she died there, in the course of two or three years.

But the deposition of Healfwina was not effected without a struggle in her favour: for a considerable civil strife ensued. Inspired by an honourable gratitude at least, Tamworth, with Nottingham, Derby, and some other towns, rose to assert the right of the only child of their noble benefactress. The implication of some of the five burghers in this commotion, appears, in some degree, to confirm the assertion of Castoreus and a few other writers, that she was divested of power in consequence of her having promised and contracted marriage with Reginald, the Danish king. However that may be, the insurrection continued for nearly two years. Eadweard was obliged to have recourse to arms. He first marched to Tamworth and subjugated it. From this place he proceeded with his army to Nottingham and took the town, when the insurgents yielded. He afterwards rode back to the borough of Tamworth, where all the Mercian people previously subject to Ethelflæda, and the kings of Wales, whom this martial lady had conquered, Howel, sur-

¹ Sax. Chron., Flor. of Worc.

² Ib.

named Dha or the Good, Cledanc, and Jeothwell, acknowledged him as their sovereign lord.¹

Eadweard died in 924; and was succeeded by his son Athelstan, who was crowned, with all wonted ceremony, at Kingston-upon-Thames, by the archbishop of Canterbury.² The Danes, who held full possession of Northumbria, had no sooner heard that a new king sat on the Anglo-Saxon throne, than they made a fierce irruption into his kingdom; hoping that, under a fresh and inexperienced monarch, they might have success they could not gain before. But Athelstan delayed not to collect his army; and, without spending his time and power in pursuing the spoilers from place to place, he marched boldly into the centre of their kingdom, weakened by the absence of numerous troops, and there obtained so great a victory, that the Danish king Sihtric or Sygtryg, son of the celebrated Yvar, was compelled to sue for peace. A treaty was then entered into between the two parties. To confirm the bonds of amity, Athelstan promised his sister Eadgitha in marriage to Sihtric, on condition that he should embrace the Christian faith. The kings came to Tamworth, where the solemnization of the marriage took place on the 3 kalends of February,—the 30th of Jan.,—925, after the performance of the required ceremony, the reception into the church by baptism.³

The insincerity of this politic conversion was soon apparent; for, on the first favourable opportunity, which occurred very shortly after, Sihtric renounced his faith and broke through all the stipulations of the treaty. Athelstan gathered his forces to invade the dominions

1 Sax. Chron., in anno 922., Flor. of Worcester, &c. 2 Will. of Malmesbury.

3 Sax. Chron., Will. of Malmesbury.

of the apostate; but, in the mean time, Sihtric died, and his two sons by a former wife fled, Onlauf or Anlaf into Ireland, and Guthfert or Godefrid into Scotland. Upon this, the whole of Northumbria was annexed to the Saxon dominions;¹ and Athelstan thus became the first king of England, though that title has been erroneous ascribed, by numberless historians, to Ecgberht or Alfred.

Eadgitha, or, as her name is generally spelt by later writers, Editha, after the decease of her nominal husband, retiring from the world, it is said, became abbess of a nunnery which she founded at Tamworth, and there was afterwards interred. But to her we shall refer more particularly in speaking of the monastery.

In the year 938, Anlaf returned out of Ireland; and, having received aid from Constantine, king of Scotland, and Howel, king of Wales, attempted to regain possession of Northumbria. Athelstan met him at a place called in the Saxon Chronicles Brunansburgh; but its situation cannot now be certainly discovered. Whilst the armies were preparing for battle, a curious incident occurred which may be worthy of relation, as materially affecting the fortunes of the contest. As Alfred had once done, Anlaf passed into the camp of Athelstan, in the disguise of a harper.² After amusing the king for some time and gaining the intelligence he required,

1 Will. of Malmesbury.

2 This story concerning Anlaf is given on the authority of Will. of Malmesbury; but by many it is considered as deserving of little credit. The old annalists, and confessedly this writer, embodied in their works a great deal of matter derived only from the impure source of popular ballads and traditions. Much then has been given entirely the result of bards' embellishments or malicious party spirit. Hence it is that these histories, owing to a simple-minded over credulity, contain so many preposterous legends and tales. Malmesbury's work, though otherwise invaluable, is replete with anecdotes, some of which have led him astray in matters of history.

There are strong reasons for suspecting the accuracy of the implication of Quendrid in the murder of her brother Kenelm. The tale of the dove every one would reject, though it is not improbable the revelation was made by the murderer or an accomplice in St. Peter's at Rome.

he was dismissed with a piece of coin for his pains. Actuated, however, by the most bitter and deadly hatred, the moment he supposed himself to be out of sight, he threw the money from him with scorn. From this act he was recognized by a sentinel standing on guard near. The soldier let him pass unmolested, till he was completely out of reach, when he informed Athelstan of the circumstance, and humbly urged the necessity of the king's removing his tent that night. Being reproached for permitting so deadly an enemy to go free, the sentinel replied that he had once taken an oath of allegiance to the Dane as he had subsequently done to Athelstan, and that nothing would induce him to violate so solemn an engagement. The king expressed his admiration of such heroic virtue, and, as we fear would hardly have been done under the present enlightened system of military discipline, forgave the offender. But it was justly thought prudent to adopt his advice; and the royal pavilion was accordingly removed to a distance. A bishop, coming soon afterwards to aid in the councils of state, caused his tent to be erected on the spot which the king had occupied. As it was expected, the Danes, in the darkness of the night, passed silently into the middle of the camp, and, unaware of the change that had taken place, slew the prelate and his whole retinue as they slept, instead of Athelstan. The Saxons, being on the watch and fully prepared, immediately attacked the enemy. The engagement soon became general, and continued unceasingly throughout the remainder of the night and till sunset of the following day. The carnage that ensued was terrible, being unparalleled since the time when the Saxons first made themselves masters of Britain. After a long and fearful struggle, the Danes

were completely routed; and Athelstan remained the glorious victor of the field.¹

The Saxon annalist has described, in long poetic strains, this scene of warfare, both during the night, and

“ After that the sun
Rose in the morning hour,
The greatest star
Glad above the earth,
God’s candle bright,
The eternal Lord’s,
Till the noble creature
Hastened to her setting.”

And when the Danes were completely vanquished and compelled to fly,

“ The Northmen,
In nailed ships,
The dreary relics of injuries,
On the stormy sea,
Over the deep waters,
Sought Difelín²
And their land,
Disgraced in mind.³

After this signal defeat, Anlaf dared not to return from Ireland, until the death of Athelstan in 941. But no sooner had Eadmund the Elder succeeded his brother, than this restless Dane, in accordance with the usual custom of attacking a nation when somewhat weakened and disordered by the accession of a new ruler, passed again in Britain, accompanied by his cousin Reginald. Being assisted by Olaus, king of Norway, and joined by the Northumbrians, who were ill-satisfied with the Saxon domination over them, he seized on the city of York. From that place, he proceeded to Northampton; but being foiled in his attempt to take it, and anxious to

¹ Will. of Malmesbury.

² Dublin in Ireland.

³ Sax. Chron.

harass the king by rapid and continued movements, he marched directly to Tamworth, which he "stormed, and great slaughter was made upon either hand; but the Danes gained the victory, and carried away much plunder. There was Wulfrun taken in the spoiling of the town."¹ Anlaf then went on to Leicester, and took the place. There he came in contact, for the first time, with the army of Eadmund; and a sharp but indecisive engagement ensued. Preparations were made for a renewal of the struggle at the dawn of the next morning; but, through the intercession of the archbishops of Canterbury and York, hostilities were suspended, and a treaty of peace proposed, in order to prevent, if possible, the farther devastation of the country and its almost certain ruin. It was finally agreed between the rival princes that all the kingdom north of the Watling street should be ceded to Anlaf and the south part retained by Eadmund. The survivor of the two was to have possession of the whole.²

Before the close of the year, the Saxon king regained all his former territory, in consequence of the Dane having fallen in an insurrection of his own fierce and inconstant countrymen in Northumbria. The unfortunate Eadmund himself fell by the dagger of an assassin, a short time subsequently, being stabbed in a scuffle with a man on the feast of St. Augustin, apostle of Britain, in 942.³ He was then only nineteen years old.

The disastrous siege and pillaging of Tamworth by the Danes, when it fell into their hands this second time, seems to have inflicted a blow upon it, from which it never wholly recovered. Henceforward it ceased to

¹ Sax. Chron.

² Sim. of Durham.

³ Will. of Malmesbury.

form a royal residence, or to be directly connected with the annals of our country. This once famous and celebrated place, the chosen dwelling of the great Offa and the favoured seat of the Mercian government, sank at once into comparative obscurity, and was scarcely again mentioned by historians for several centuries. Of it, till the period of the Norman conquest, we find nothing more recorded, except that there was a monastery here in the time of Etheldred II, and that the name occurs as a place of royal mintage.

Tamworth had undoubtedly enjoyed, with other great places, the privilege of coining from a very early period, at least, from the time of Offa. It is impossible to recognize those previous to the middle of the tenth century: for, although it was customary, even in the time of Ecgberht, king of Kent, for the moneyer to have his name placed on the piece, the places were not added until the reign of Athelstan, who ordained that all money should be struck within towns alone.¹

The coins of Tamworth are now exceedingly rare, and consequently as highly prized by numismatists. The name is first found upon a penny of Eadweard the Martyr; who succeeded Edgar in 975 and was slain by his step-mother, three years afterwards. It occurs under the abbreviated superscription of TANWO. All the money of this king, which has hitherto been discovered, is of the same type. The pieces bear, on the obverse, an ill-drawn portrait, with his title as REX ANGLORUM sometimes given at length, though often in a contracted form. On the reverse, is stamped a cross pateè, with the names of the moneyer and of the mint.²

Of the coins of Ethelred II, or the Unready, who

¹ Ruding's Annals of Coinage.

² Ib.

ruled from 978 to 1016, and of his immediate successor, Edmund II, surnamed Ironside, who fell after a short reign of a few months, none have yet been found which issued from this town. But in the time of the next sovereign, Canute the Great, the mint was again in activity. Pitt, in his account of Staffordshire, says that "Kedar, a celebrated Swedish antiquary, has published a coin of this monarch struck here, having on the reverse EDRIC ON TAM; i. e. 'Edric, Moneyer in Tamworth.' The name of the same mint-master is found also on a coin in the Bodleian Cabinet at Oxford; but we have not had the good fortune to see either the representation of the coins, or the coins themselves."¹ Edric appears among the list of moneyers given by Ruding, although the town is not mentioned by this author.

Canute, dying in 1035, was succeeded by his son Harald Harefoot; who continued till 1042, when Hardicanute ascended the throne. In the reign of these kings are found no coins of the mint at Tamworth; but among those of Edward the Confessor this name occurs; being spelt both Tonwvrth and Tonwyrth. "The types of his coins," says Ruding, "are more diversified than those of any of his predecessors. As his coins, which have been preserved, are very numerous, nearly 500 varieties being known, so the manner in which his name and title are signified upon them, is likewise extremely varied by almost every possible mode of ill-spelling. They have chiefly the initial, or the whole of ANGLORUM upon the obverse; and the circle of the reverse is filled with the name of the mint and the Moneyer, except in one instance where Spraceling (the name of the moneyer) occupies the whole of it."¹

¹ Topographical Hist. of Staffordsh.

We have been unable either to procure a sight or to obtain a more particular account of these Tamworth pieces. The only specimen of the Confessor's coinage issued from this town, with which we are acquainted, is a silver penny, bearing, on the obverse, the inscription EDWARD REX, and, on the reverse, BRUNING ON TAM. We give a representation of it.



Edward the Confessor, dying on the 5th of January, 1066, was succeeded by Harald II.

Of the coins of this sovereign, three varieties have been found, which, notwithstanding his brief reign, are far from being of uncommon occurrence. On the obverse, they bear his name and title of king of England; and on the reverse, the name of the moneyer and the place of mintage. All of them have the word *PAX* across the centre.¹ In the catalogue of his mints given by Ruding, occurs the abbreviation *TAN*, which this great numismatist conjectured to have been either Tamworth, or Taunton, in Somersetshire. Unfortunately he has not given the names of the moneyers in connection with those of the mints. Otherwise we might have decided the question; for, at the time, Bruning was the master of the mint at Tamworth.

It may be well, whilst we are speaking of the coinage of the town, to conclude at once our account of it. Though the adoption of such a course may violate, in

¹ Ruding's *Annals of Coinage*.

some degree, the strict order of narration, in a chronological point of view, it will prevent the necessity of a recurrence to this subject.

After the conquest, the royal mint at Tamworth continued in activity until the time of Henry I., in whose reign it was discontinued.¹ The coins of William I., which were struck here, are not quite of so great rarity as those of the Anglo-Saxon monarchs. They are, nevertheless, of much value. The engraving, which we subjoin, is that of a silver penny of the Norman Conqueror of England.²



On the obverse, is inscribed simply WILLELMVS REX, and on the reverse BRVNING ON TANWI. It will be noticed that the same mint-master continued at Tamworth, as in the time of the Confessor.

Of the money struck at the town subsequently to the reign of this king, we have been unable to obtain the detailed information, which we might desire. Pitt says "In the reign of William the second, we find the Tamworth mint again employed, a coin of that sovereign (formerly in the collection of the celebrated Dr. Mead), bearing on the reverse IELFWINE ON TAM; but as we know not where the coin now is, nor have seen either a similar piece, or any engraving of it, we are unable to gratify our readers by a more accurate account of it."³

¹ Ruding's Annals of Coinage.

² This penny was purchased at the sale of the late Rev. F. Blicke's valuable collection of coins, in June, 1843, and is now in the possession of the publisher: Sir George Chetwynd, Bart., of Grendon Hall, also possesses a similar piece.

³ Topographical Hist. of Staffordsh.

The very great similarity of the pieces of this king to those of his father, renders it extremely difficult to distinguish their respective coinages. The types of Henry 1st's money are as diversified as in the reign of any subsequent sovereign. But the coins of William Rufus and of Henry, which were struck at Tamworth, are so exceedingly scarce, that we have never met with them.

After the Norman conquest, in 1066, Tamworth is first mentioned in Domesday-book, completed about the year 1086. There is no direct survey of this town; but it is incidentally mentioned in the account given of other places. Ten burgesses in Tamworth are said to have belonged to the manor of Coleshill, and eight to that of Drayton; and, in the report concerning the village of Wigginton, four more are named as being here.¹

The omission of many important places in this celebrated record, has furnished a subject of much debate; but no very satisfactory explanation has been given. Dean Lyttelton conjectured that towns, which were *terra regis*, or rather royal boroughs, being well known as to their extent and value, it was needless to name, as they claimed the right of being taxed according to their ancient cess: and the Domesday was only compiled in order to know the true value of every man's lands, with a view to tax them.² It will, however, be observed that not only boroughs, but extensive rural districts, have been left entirely unnoticed. The commissioners, who traversed the country to make the survey, have been, by some, accused of partiality, allowing themselves occasionally to be influenced by gifts. But

¹ Domesday-book, printed by royal authority.

² Letter in Shaw's Staffordsh.

it is incredible, even taking it for granted they were willing, that they dared to make omissions of so great magnitude and frequency, as is found to be the case. The opinion of Lyttelton seems to approximate nearer to the truth than any other which has hitherto been given. The Domesday appears to have been composed for the purpose of regulating the tenures and imposts of places where they had not been previously arranged, or concerning which there might be some doubt: but those comparatively few localities, where the services had been already fixed, generally at the time of their grant to some Norman lord, were not unnecessarily surveyed by the commissioners. The Conqueror was not so mindful of the Saxon liberties, as to allow the towns to retain their old cess, or mode of taxation.

The subjugation of England was accompanied by a complete overthrow of the ancient constitution of the country. The Saxons were every where deprived of power, and levelled, in the agricultural districts, to the rank of the humble farmer and artizan, who were called by their new masters villans. Thus, as if to show the degradation of the burgesses of Tamworth, after having spoken, under the head of Drayton, of the eight at this town, the Domesday adds that here they laboured as other villans did. The people were no longer permitted to continue freeholders. The king, by right of arms, claimed the possession of the whole land; and he exercised his power of granting it away at will, in conformity with the feudal system, which he introduced into this country. Reserving in his own hands the greater proportion, that is, all the large cities and boroughs, he gave the rest of the towns and lands, for particular services rendered to him, to nearly 700 of his

followers, as tenants-in-chief. By them, the lands were let, for payments and charges, at pleasure, to the humbler grades of men, or the great mass of the population.

Their deprivation of all authority and reduction to a grade little superior to that of slaves, however oppressive and unjust to the Saxons themselves, served as the best means, whereby the king might secure permanently the conquest which he had made. He not only attached his own countrymen to his interests, by conferring immense possessions on them, but, by placing the inhabitants under their control, he prevented the Saxons from ever successfully rising to depose their conquerors and regain their liberties. It is evident, from the Domesday, that even the guild-halls were given away in the division of the spoil. The church alone was allowed, for the most part, to retain her lands; and those undoubtedly would have been seized, had it not been in the power of the king to secure them to himself, by appointing Normans in all the greatest and most important ecclesiastical offices.

But the Saxons were not only compelled to pay a rent-charge for their individual holdings; they were also subject to arbitrary taxations, called tallages and aids. It was in the power of the king alone to demand them at pleasure, whenever necessity or caprice should require. The revenues of the Anglo-Saxon state were raised by similar contributions, but not without the full consent of the national council. They were collected, in each county, by the shire-reeve, and in each town, by the borough or port-reeve. The latter officer was elected by his own townsmen, in a general assembly, frequently held in the open air, but generally within doors, at the hus-tings, where the inhabitants were accustomed to as-

assemble, in order to frame bye-laws for their common good and the well-government of the town. William I. and his son Rufus took into their own hands the choice of the borough-reeves, and delegate to each place one of their own countrymen, to whom the title of bailiff was given. The appointments were usually conferred on those, who paid the highest sums for them; and they became matters of pecuniary speculation. The Norman bailiffs, having almost uncontrolled power of exaction, exercised the functions of their office in a most insupportable manner. This grievous oppression was felt more severely by the Saxons, on account of the freedom of election, which they had previously enjoyed, and the lenity which a countryman and fellow-townsmen naturally showed towards them. In many places, revolts ensued, not only to abolish this abuse but to restore the good laws of Edward the Confessor. In the north of England, the insurrections were the most formidable; and they were only suppressed by acts, of which both Saxon and Norman historians speak in terms of great abhorrence and lamentation. Hence we may well conceive the nature of the measures taken against the unfortunate people, whose only crime was their endeavour to maintain their wonted liberties.

But the Saxons, in the mean time, did not neglect to have recourse to quieter and more politic methods of gaining some alleviation from the oppression which they suffered. The burgesses of towns, in order to free themselves from the great scourge of Norman bailiffs, offered higher sums for the liberty of choosing their own officers than individuals could usually afford, or was consistent with a profitable investment of money. The king, finding this an advantageous mode of more

fully replenishing his treasury, at last fully adopted the mode of selling the right to the inhabitants for an annual payment. He had little cause to fear much difficulty in obtaining the stipulated amount, as a dread of the return of the Norman bailiff would naturally render the people punctual. Hence arose the custom of annual fee-farm rents being paid by boroughs to the crown. These places resumed at once their ancient form of free government; and the officer over each either re-adopted the old name of borough-reeve, or retained the later one of bailiff. Sometimes he was called, from the Latin, a mayor, as he constituted the head of the little community. He was, in all cases, esteemed the officer of the crown, and was held responsible for the fee-farm rent and other payments, whenever they should be demanded. But when any arrears occurred, it was customary for the barons of the exchequer, the king's attorney, or other officer, to sue the townsmen collectively, until the adoption of a select corporate body deprived the inhabitants generally of the power and right to legislate for themselves. This change did not take place before the 16th century.¹

In the sketch, which we have given, of the organization and form of government of boroughs, at the period of, and a little subsequently to, the conquest, we have only dwelt on such points as were necessary to elucidate our subject. We now return more particularly to the history of Tamworth.

From the end of the reign of William II., to the time of Henry III., very little appears on record concerning this town, besides the payments of aids, and a visit which it received from Henry II.

¹ See Penny Cyclopædia :—Art. Borough.

Of the royal presence here, nothing more is particularly noticed than that the king then signed the charter, confirming to the monks of Merevale the grant which earl Robert de Ferrers, for the soul of Robert his father, for the health of his own soul and of that of his wife, made to the church of the same place, to the intent that an abbey of the Cistercian order should be erected. For this purpose, the earl gave all his property in the forest Arden, and whatever he possessed in Whittington, with the manors of Weston and Overton (Orton-on-the-hill), also Crannockstone, with common pasture in Hertington and Pilsbury for sheep and other cattle. These the king established, with all subsequent purchases and acquirements, especially the gifts of Gerard de Lunese, Walter de Canwell, and Radulph and Paganus de Baskerville.¹

The royal charter was dated on the 12th of March; but, as occurs very frequently in ancient documents, the year was not added, so that the precise time of the king's visit to Tamworth is unknown. We may, however, ascertain the period within seven years; for Theobald, archbishop of Canterbury, who was a witness to the deed, with the bishop of Chester and the chancellor, was succeeded, on his decease in April, 1161, by Thomas à Becket. It must, therefore, have occurred between the accession of the king in 1154, and that event.

It has been supposed that, after 15 Hen. II., and previously to the reign of Henry III., Tamworth had fallen so greatly into decay, that it ceased to exist any longer as a borough.² This is partly incorrect; but it

¹ Dugdale's *Monast. Anglican.*

² Merewether and Stephens' *Hist. of Boroughs and Municipal Corporations.*

would be more than absurd to deny that the town declined in a very considerable degree. This is clearly evident from several circumstances. The aid, which it paid in 1 Hen. I.,—1100,—amounted to 30s.; but it was reduced, in the 31st year of the same king, to 25s., when the burgesses were pardoned that sum by royal writ, on account, as it is expressly said, of their poverty. Also, in 1139, the burgesses paid two sums of 25s. each, one for a past, the other for a new aid; when they were again excused an equal amount for a similar cause. In 1155, the aid was the same; and three years afterwards, the town paid a donum of 100s.¹ All these returns are for the Staffordshire side. Dugdale mentions aids of the part which came under his observation, as being rendered in 1 Steph., and 7, 11, 15, Hen. II.,—1135, 1160, 1164, and 1168,—in the latter year, two marks,—26s. 8d.,—being paid.²

Hence it is evident, from the decrease of the aids and the subsequent pardons, that the town was declining, at least in wealth. After the year 1168, we do not find the payments of aids at all, even during the reigns of the first Edwards. In 1222, in the roll of tallage for Staffordshire, it is called “villata de Tameworde;” and, in 1315, the sheriff of the same county, being required to state how many boroughs there were within the limits of his jurisdiction, returned only Stafford, totally omitting this town.³ How far the situation of the place in two counties may have led to its exclusion remains for some consideration.

But however Tamworth may have sunk, it is evident that it still remained a borough, although it did not

¹ Pipe roll for Staffordshire.—Merewether and Stephens.—Madox's Hist. and Antiquities of the Exchequer.

² Dugdale's Warwicksh. ³ Merewether and Stephens.

call into action its privileges as such until the time of Elizabeth. This will be clearly evident from our ensuing narrative. Pitt says that it was declared a free corporation in the time of Henry III.; and the charter, being forfeited, was restored by Edward II.¹

When Simon de Montfort, at the time he held Henry III. as a prisoner, in 1265, issued writs to each of the sheriffs of the kingdom to return two knights for each county, two citizens for each city, and two burgesses for each borough, to form a general council, Tamworth was not included.² It was then chiefly in the power of one of the most faithful adherents to the king, Philip de Marmyon,—a circumstance which more than probably caused its exclusion. In similar assemblies convoked by Edward I. and his successors, for the purpose of facilitating taxation, the town was also omitted. When this body of representatives, gradually assumed full legislative powers, and formed the House of Commons, the management and control of it became a very important object to the kings. The sheriffs were now directed to single out or omit any boroughs at pleasure, so as in fact to form a body as select and confined in numbers as possible. Every mode was adopted to render it submissive to the royal will. In 1381, the Commons proceeded so far in the exercise of their power, as to impose fines on a sheriff omitting any place, and on the citizens or burgesses neglecting to return the required members. But even after this, excuses were admitted, for a very considerable period, to be valid, as inability to pay the parliamentary wages of the representatives, loss from war, or any other cause.³

¹ Topographical. hist. of Staffordsh.

² Merewether and Stephens.

³ See Penny Cyclopædia :—Art. Borough.

We accordingly find many boroughs, and among them this town, not exercising their powers of aiding in the councils of the country.

The cause of the decline of Tamworth may be easily conjectured. From the Domesday-book, it may be well inferred that the town, after the conquest, was inhabited chiefly by villans and surfs, the tradesman, labourer, artizan, and the slave. The depression of the Saxons, the devastating wars between Stephen and the empress Maud, the absence of the nobles and the great land-owners in the holy wars of Palestine, the struggle between Henry III. and his barons, and finally the long and terrible wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, were, indeed, ill calculated to promote the advancement of agriculture and its dependent rustic arts, on which the inhabitants of this place almost wholly relied. But from the time of Edward I., we can trace an improvement in the general state of the town. Although very gradual, it continued with a steady and uniform pace, until within the last century and a half, when the changes became much more rapid.

We must now turn our attention from the very general and enlarged view, in which we have been lately compelled to give the history of Tamworth, to subjects of more particular and limited interest. And this course of proceeding we adopt with the greater pleasure, as we enter into a field freer from the dry details, which have demanded our chief consideration, since the period of the conquest. The first point, which will occupy our regard, is one connected with tales and legends, heard with intense interest and gratification in the vernal days of childhood, and remembered with pleasure, when the winter of life has chilled the energy of youth, and hoary made the head.

According to the common tradition of the locality, Tamworth and the surrounding neighbourhood were the frequent resort of the famous outlaw, Robin Hood. By the name of his butts, have ever been known the Roman tumuli at Wigginton and Elford. It has been suggested that they might have received this appellation, merely from their being the common archery grounds, where the people practised the noble art, once so highly prized in this kingdom. But, had it been usual for such places to be so named, every town and village would have boasted of its Robin Hood's butts. There is not the least improbability in his visiting this place, as he so constantly haunted localities within about thirty miles distant. The extensive royal woods around this town would doubtless form a rich field for his adventures. The tale, however, that he was able to shoot from one of these butts to the other seems to have been a modern addition, in order to account for their designation. It was in fact a total impossibility, as the distance is nearly two miles. The longest shot which Robin is recorded to have made, was when he was requested to exhibit his dexterity with the bow by Richard, abbot of Whitby, with whom he and his lieutenant, Little John, went to dine, most probably without waiting for the formality of a special invitation. From the top of the abbey, he and his companion let two arrows fly, which fell, one on either side of a lane, not far from Whitby laths. The distance was about a mile and a quarter; and it must have been very considerably increased by the elevated situation which the shooters occupied, as the abbey stood on the summit of a cliff. This feat occurred in 1188. In memory of the transaction, the abbot caused

two pillars to be erected, where the arrows fell, on each of which was inscribed the name of the shooter.¹

We are, indeed, unwilling to lose the connection of Tamworth with the bold rover of the forests. He is the only malefactor, whose memory reflects no disgrace on those places, with which his name is associated. On the contrary, it has attached an almost sacred character to them; for the very crimes of the outlaw were rendered hallowed to succeeding generations. His constant opposition to the tyranny of the Norman lords and his principles of equality endeared him, in the strongest manner, to the Saxons, who formed the great mass of the population. For, according to the old historians, though an arch-robber, he was the gentlest thief that ever lived, and a man of unbounded charity. The opulent and noble he deprived of their wealth, to enrich the poor; and for the oppressed, he frequently obtained the redress, for which they vainly sought elsewhere. He was not destitute of the deep religious temper of those olden times, which influenced every action of life, and, however anomalous it might be thought, gave a peculiar tinge even to the commission of misdeeds themselves. The same source of all the refined feelings, which characterize Christianity, gave him, in common with the rest, that generous and noble disposition towards the tenderer sex, so universal in the days of chivalry, whence it as descended to our times. For, according to the old ballad,

Robin loved our dere Lady;
For doute of dedely synne,
Wolde he never do company harm
That any woman was ynnne.

¹ Charton's Hist. of Whitby Abbey.

There has been much dispute respecting the title which Robin Hood is said to have possessed of earl of Huntingdon. His real name is conjectured to have been Robert Fitz-ooth; and the common-people, dropping the Norman Fitz, modified it into Hood.¹ Robin might probably have been an alteration of Roving,—a title most appropriate to him, on account of the unsettled and wandering life which he led. All the ballads concerning him present the marks of changes in orthography, at different periods. If these opinions be correct, he most certainly was connected with the family of Simon de St. Liz, earl of Huntingdon. But in the old legends, he is often styled simply a yeoman. Thus one, entitled “a lytell geste of Robyn hode and his meyne, and of the proude sheryfe of Notyngham,” begins

“ Lithe and lysten, gentylmen,
That be of fre-bore blode :
I shall you tell of a good yeman,
His name was Robyn hode.”²

This circumstance has formed the foundation of one of the greatest objections, which has been urged against his having held the title. A little consideration, however, will remove the difficulty, in a very great measure. A yeoman he might have been; for he does not appear to have possessed any estates. It is probable that the family property was confiscated in his father's time, in consequence of the rebellion of Robert de Ferrers against Henry II., in 1173. According to the collection, called “Robin Hood's Garland,” he was a native of Loxley, which belonged to the Ferrers' family.³ He

¹ Stukeley's *Palaographia Britannica*.

² Percy's *Reliques of ancient English poetry*.

³ It was probably the loss of his patrimony, which compelled Robin Hood to associate with men, whom the severity of the Norman forest-laws had driven to extremes.

could not have assumed the title until the death of John Scott, tenth and last earl of Huntingdon (also of Chester), in 1237. He was, at that time, an old man; and his deeds of renown were almost brought to a close. Hence the ballads relating to exploits which occurred previously to this time might rightly denominate him a yeoman.

But even supposing that Robin Hood were Fitz-ooth, his right to the earldom of Huntingdon was of a very dubious nature. It would rather descend with the sisters and coheiresses of John Scott, than pass to him. It is not improbable that he might have assumed the title whilst it lay dormant, or it was assigned to him by the people, rather than that he properly possessed it. In fact, without regarding any other point, he was incapable as an outlaw of holding it. But here we are entering so deeply into the wide region of conjecture, that we shall draw this part of our subject to a conclusion.

Bold Robin died when he must have attained an age of upwards of eighty years. The stone over his humble tomb, near the nunnery of Kirklees, in Yorkshire, still remains. It once bore this inscription, now effaced by time.

**Ʒear, undernead Ʒis latil stean,
latȝ robert, earl of huntingtun;
nea archȝr ber aȝ hȝe sæe geuð,
an piȝl kaulð im Robȝn Ʒeud.
stȝck utlawȝ aȝ hȝi an iȝ men
biȝl England nȝbir ȝi agen.**

obiit 24 kal. dekembriȝ, 1247.¹

¹ Thoresby's Ducat. Leod.

In pursuing the early history of Tamworth, it will be necessary to divide the town into the respective parts in each county; for they were separated into two distinct manors, each governed by its own officers, holding its own courts, and in short, acting entirely independently of one another.

The Staffordshire part continued to be royal demesnes, a fee-farm rent of 5*l.* being rendered annually for it, until the time of Henry III. In 1246, the king gave it and Wigginton, with the manor of Wolverhampton, in Staffordshire, and other lordships, in different counties, to Henry de Hastings and Ada his wife, in exchange for their portion of the earldom of Chester.¹

This Henry de Hastings, who possessed extensive lands in the counties of Warwick, Bedford, Leicester, Salop, Norfolk, and Suffolk, was of a very eminent and noble family, which came into England at the time of the Norman conquest. They derived their surname from one of the Cinque-ports, in Sussex, with which they were connected for a considerable period. The wife of Henry was of a still more illustrious ancestry, being of the royal lineage of Scotland. She was the third daughter of David, earl of Huntingdon and Carriack, and Maud his wife, daughter of Hugh, and sister and coheiress of Ralph, who was the third earl of Chester. David, earl of Huntingdon, was grandson of David I., and brother of Malcolm IV., and William the Lion, all three of whom were kings of Scotland. His son John assumed the surname of Scott, and became, in the right of his mother, earl of Chester. But he died without issue; and his three sisters became his coheiresses, of whom Ada was one, and carried her share of the property to her husband.

¹ Rot. 31 H. III., m. 4 :—Shaw's Staffordsh.—Corporation records.

Henry de Hastings was a distinguished person in the time of Henry III.¹ He accompanied this monarch in his expedition into France, in 1242, to support the cause of Hugh de Lusignan, count de la Marche. This nobleman had married Isabell, consort of John and mother of Henry. Too proud to own allegiance to the French king, and indignant at being considered as the vassal of a foreign power, she persuaded her husband to refuse homage to Alphonso, on whom *his* brother, Louis IX., had conferred the French part of Poiteau. The count threw himself on the protection of Henry. But, as in most other undertakings, this weak monarch was totally unsuccessful; and Hugh de Lusignan was compelled to make submission to his rightful liege. Louis speedily reduced the English division of Poiteau; and he would soon have driven his opponents entirely from all their possessions on the continent, had not conscientious scruples arisen in his just and upright mind. The English suffered a signal defeat at Xante; where many of the nobility were taken prisoners; and, amongst them, Henry de Hastings. The king afterwards concluded a treaty with Louis, and returned to England in September, 1243. On this occasion, he gratified his vanity by proceeding from Portsmouth to London with the pomp of a conqueror, attended by all his military tenants.

Henry de Hastings did not very long remain in captivity. He was exchanged, with others, by the French, for some of their party, whom the English had taken. Afterwards, with the principal nobles of the realm, he attended Richard, earl of Cornwall, who

¹ The account of the Hastings' family is chiefly derived from the works of Dugdale, Matth. of Westminster, Walsingham, and Froissart.

proceeded with a splendid retinue into France. The precise purpose of the expedition is unknown. In that journey, he died, about the end of the year 1250. He left a son Henry, then a minor, and two daughters, Margery and Hillaria, who were then receiving their education in the nunnery of Alneston.

At his decease, Henry de Hastings possessed Wigginton and the moiety of Tamworth. In an inquisition, without date, about this period, made by Galfrid, son of Warin, of the extent of the manor of Wigginton, it is stated that, in the town of Tamworth, there were burgesses who rendered annually 46*s.* 8*d.* for their burgages; three marks and a half, at the will of the king, for their courts; and half a mark, also at the king's pleasure, for view of frank-pledge: thus making altogether an amount of 5*l.* During the time that these places were held together, they were often considered as forming but one manor; although they were in reality quite distinct.

The guardianship of Henry de Hastings, on the death of his father, was committed to Guy de Lusignan, son of the count de la Marche and half-brother of Henry III. Two years afterwards, this nobleman transferred his charge to William de Cantilupe, lord of Abergavenny, to whom the king confirmed it, with the custody of all the estates. In the tenure-roll of the hundred of Offlow, about 1255, it is said that Robert Waldrand held Wigginton, by reason of the heir of Henry de Hastings, in exchange for the part of the lands in Cheshire; and it was estimated at the annual value of 30*l.*¹

Henry de Hastings, having attained his majority, did homage to the king, and took full possession of his father's

¹ Corporation Records.

² Shaw's Staffordsh.

lands. He then married Joan, daughter of William de Cantilupe, his guardian; and became a person of great note and consideration in the country.

In 1261, he was summoned to attend the king at Shrewsbury, on the feast of the Nativity of the blessed Virgin Mary; well furnished with horse and arms, in order to march against Llewellyn ap Griffith, prince of Wales, who had risen in open rebellion. In the following year, he had similar orders to repair to London, on the day after the feast of Sts. Simon and Jude. Again in 1264, he was commanded to be at Worcester, for the same purpose, on the ensuing Lammas-day: and he was summoned as first baron Hastings, to the parliament about to be assembled on the 14th of December.

But in this latter year, the great defection among the barons, mainly attributable to the weak and tyrannical conduct of the king, began to manifest itself in acts of violent opposition. Henry de Hastings now associated himself with Simon de Montfort, earl of Leicester, and other rebellious persons. With Henry and Simon, the sons of this nobleman, and others, he was included in the sentence of excommunication, pronounced by the archbishop of Canterbury, on account of the great and formidable outrages, which they committed against the church and clergy. He afterwards became a most active and zealous leader of the disaffected party. When, by mutual consent, Henry referred the causes of contention for arbitration and adjustment to Louis IX., he was one of those named on the part of the barons, as a surety for their adherence to the determination which should be made by the French monarch.

The decision of Louis, notwithstanding the strict justice and impartiality by which it was characterized,

proved satisfactory to neither party: and the king and barons were at once involved in open warfare. In the battle fought at Lewes, on the 14th of May, 1264, the royal party was completely routed; and the king and his son, prince Edward, were taken prisoners by the rebels. Henry de Hastings, having greatly distinguished himself by extraordinary feats of valour in the combat, received, as a reward, the honour of knighthood at the hand of Simon de Montfort; and he was invested with the office of governor of the castles of Scarborough and Winchester.

After a short time, prince Edward effected his escape from the guards at Hereford castle, where he had been detained in honourable captivity. Joined by all his former partizans, and by numbers who had taken offence at many of the actions of Simon de Montfort, he soon raised a large force to rescue his father and subdue the barons. The two armies met on a plain near Evesham, in Worcestershire. The earl of Leicester, as soon as he saw the number of his opponents, and their orderly march, exclaimed in despair "God have mercy on our souls, our bodies are prince Edward's." All his hopes of success at once fled; yet he determined on maintaining the struggle to the last. Gathering around him his friends and supporters, Hugh Spencer, Henry de Hastings, Ralph Basset of Drayton, and many others, he endeavoured to persuade them to provide for their own safety by flight, whilst he remained to sustain the brunt of the combat. They all refused; and, prepared for the worst fate, they commenced the battle, which took place on the 4th of August, 1265. The baronial party fought with a fury, which desperation could alone inspire. But they were completely overthrown; and Simon de Mont-

fort and Henry his son, with innumerable others of the nobility, were slain. Simon, the eldest son of the earl, fled to Axholme and fortified it; but he was soon obliged to capitulate to the prince. With his brother Guy, he was banished from the kingdom. Another party in Hampshire was headed by Adam de Gurton, a very valiant man, who at length was made prisoner by Edward; and receiving pardon, became one of his most faithful adherents. The majority of the rebels took refuge in the isle of Ely; where they continued until they were compelled to surrender on the 15th of July, 1267.

Immediately after the defeat of the barons, Henry de Hastings retreated, with the remainder of his troops, to the strong castle of Kenilworth, in Warwickshire, according to a hasty arrangement. There he shut himself up, resolved to hold out as long as possible, in hopes of succour from France. The place was soon invested by the liberated king, who kept up a continued siege for nearly six months. Hastings harassed the besiegers exceedingly, and committed great havoc among them, by casting immense stones and collections of rubbish from the engines on the walls, and by repeated and most daring sallies from the gates, whenever any chances of success appeared. Henry, finding himself thus foiled in his endeavours to take the place, sent gracious offers of pardon and reward to him, if he would surrender peaceably. The fierce warrior refused to listen for a moment to any treaty, and caused the messenger of peace to be maimed in a most brutal manner. Ottobon, the papal legate, afterwards elevated to the pontifical chair as Adrian V., thereupon thundered out an anathema against him, on account of his contumacy and cruelty; but he paid no regard to the censures of

the church, and continued his stubborn resistance. Soon afterwards, however, there broke out in the garrison a violent pestilential fever; which, aided by the failure of provisions, swept away great numbers of the troops. Finding it impossible to obtain supplies, Hastings was at length compelled reluctantly to capitulate, which he accordingly did on honourable terms: as the rebels were all suffered to depart from the castle "with their lives, members, and goods safe." Henry marched out of his strong-hold on the eve of St. Thomas the apostle,—the 20th of December.

On account of the obstinacy which he had manifested, he was, however, excluded from participation in the benefits of the treaty between the king and the barons, called the Dictum de Kenilworth. His estates were confiscated; and he received sentence condemning him either to seven years imprisonment, or to unconditional submission to royal clemency. The proud noble preferred rigorous confinement to voluntary humiliation.

On the forfeiture of Hastings' property, previously to the grant of part to other persons, an inquisition was taken at Tamworth, on the 20th of August, 1266, of the extent of the king's manor of Wigginton and Tamworth, before William de Clifford, escaetor beyond Trent, and Thomas de Thamenhorn, Henry de Packington, Roger de Comberford, Simon le Sauvage, Robert de Cotes, of the county of Stafford, and others. They stated on oath, after describing the royal demesnes in Wigginton, that the rent of assize of the burgesses in this town, on the Warwickshire side, was 2*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, and on the Staffordshire side, 2*l.* 10*s.*: and the latter were wont to give for the paunage of their hogs' half

1 Licence to feed the animals on the fallen acorns in the king's wood.

a mark,—6*s.* 8*d.*¹ The Staffordshire part with Wigginton was then bestowed on Philip de Marmyon, lord of the Castle, for the term of his natural life.

Before the expiration of the first two years of Henry de Hastings' imprisonment, the king was prevailed upon, by prince Edward, to grant pardon to his unyielding prisoner. He was accordingly liberated, and admitted to the full advantages of the Dictum; and the greatest portion of his property was restored to him. But Tamworth and Wigginton do not appear to have been given back to his family, previously to the year 1279.²

Henry de Hastings died very shortly after his enlargement. The captivity, which he had suffered, seems to have chafed his turbulent and active spirit, and completely undermined his bodily health. He left two sons, John, who succeeded him, and Edmund, and three daughters, Audrey, Laura, and Joan. It is evident that his lady did not at all participate in the royal indignation, on account of the conduct of her husband: for we find that the king bestowed upon her many rich and fair lands for her support.

John de Hastings was only six years of age, when his father died. On attaining his majority, in 1283, he took possession of all his father's estates; and then the moiety of Tamworth and Wigginton were doubtlessly yielded up to him. Being heir of his maternal uncle, he acquired the castle and honour of Abergavenny, the castle of Kilgaran, and other considerable property.

During the absence of Edward I. from England, in 1287, when he had passed over into Gascoigne, on the succession of Philip the Fair to the throne of France,

¹ Escast. 50 H. III., Ashmolean M. S. 859, p. 129:—Shaw's Staffordsh.

² See Appendix;—Note 1.

to renew his homage for his foreign domains, the Welsh, only a short time previously subjugated, again rose in revolt for the recovery of their independence. As the king remained abroad about three years and a half, Edmund, earl of Cornwall, then regent, marched into Wales, and with some difficulty suppressed the insurrection. John de Hastings accompanied him. He also went with Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester and Hereford, into Ireland, six years subsequently, on an expedition of somewhat similar import.

The principal exploits of John de Hastings' were exhibited in the wars between England and Scotland. To the throne of the latter country he claimed a right. Alexander III., grandson of William the Lion, had an only daughter, Margaret; who, in 1281, was married to Eric, the young king of Norway. She had but one daughter, also named Margaret, and distinguished by the appellation of "the maiden of Norway." The latter, on the death of her grandfather, in 1284, succeeded to the crown of Scotland. As she was then a mere infant of three years old, a regency was appointed. This young queen died in 1290; and with her the direct royal line of Scotland became extinct. Thirteen competitors laid claim to the vacant throne. These were John Baliol, lord of Galloway; Robert Bruce, earl of Carrick and Annandale; John Hastings; Eric, king of Norway; Florence, count of Holland; John Cummin, earl of Badenoch; Robert Dunbar, earl of March; William de Vesey; Robert de Ross; Patrick Galyhtly; Robert de Pinkeny; Nicholas de Soules; and Roger de Mandevile. The pretensions of the latter ten were too futile to merit consideration; as in most cases they were merely grounded on an illegitimate origin from the royal family.

The contest, therefore, rested between Baliol, Bruce, and Hastings, who were descended from David, earl of Huntingdon. They referred their claims to Edward I. The king, obliging them to renew the long acknowledged but evaded feudal superiority of England over Scotland, proceeded in his office as arbitrator. Hastings, being descended from the youngest daughter, could only assert his right to a third part of the kingdom as his share. But as it was decided that Scotland could not be separated into three distinct monarchies, his demand was laid aside. Otherwise Tamworth might have enjoyed the proud distinction of forming part of the possessions of two royal personages,—the kings of England and Scotland. The competition thus remained solely between John Baliol and Robert Bruce. The point of the dispute between them was, whether the right of the latter as grandson of David, earl of Huntingdon, by the second daughter, was not superior to that of the former, who was great-grandson by the first daughter. The enquiry lasted nearly two years; but, on the 16th of November, 1292, it was terminated in favour of Baliol, to whom, without doubt, the throne properly belonged. On the ensuing morning, he took an oath of fealty to Edward; and soon afterwards was crowned at Scone with a tributary diadem.

John de Hastings, having possession of Tamworth and Wigginton, claimed, in 1293, free warren, and the right to all waifs and strays in these places. In the two manors, he also demanded the privileges of gallows, assize of bread and ale, pillory, tumbrell or cucking-stool, and a court leet.¹

This nobleman submitted without reserve to the final

¹ Rot. 24, 61 de quo war., 21 E. I:—Corporation Records.

sentence of Edward. In the subsequent attempts of the Scotch to free themselves from the yoke of England, he afforded his aid, and continually took a very prominent part. But in 1297, he was summoned, amongst many others, to be present at London by the Sunday after the octaves of the feast of St. John the Baptist; well furnished with horse and arms, in order to attend the king very shortly in a military expedition into France. The design of this hostility was to regain the province of Guienne, which the French monarch Philip had seized, on account of the inhabitants having been engaged with the English in some piratical excursions against the Normans, in 1294. Edward had been cited, as duke of Guienne, to answer for these matters. Being very much occupied in Scotland at the time, he sent his brother Edmund, earl of Lancaster, to Paris, who was, however, unable to effect any amicable arrangement. In 1297, the king, having completely subjected Scotland, and, deposing John Baliol, annexed it to the English crown, determined on an attempt to recover his foreign territory. For this purpose, he did not march into Guienne, but resolved to ravage France from the Flemish border; and he accordingly landed at Sluys. After eight months' warfare, attended with very trifling success, he concluded a treaty with Philip, and returned home in the following March.

Scarcely had John de Hastings arrived in England, when his services were again required in Scotland. He was ordered to resort to Carlisle, on the eve of Whitsunday, in order to advance into that kingdom, to aid in suppressing the sudden and general revolt, of which sir William Wallace was the principal leader. He continued in the Scottish wars during the five following

years. There he performed military service for five knights' fees, in 1300; and the next year, he served under Edward, prince of Wales. He was present at the celebrated siege of the castle of Caerlaverock in Dumfriesshire, in 1303. The whole of Scotland was again subdued. Wallace, being captured, was conducted in triumph to London; where, after a short trial, he was executed for treason.

Soon after the taking of Caerlaverock, when the strife in the north had nearly terminated, Henry de Hastings was sent abroad into Gascoigne; but there he did not remain very long. He had special summons, amongst the nobility, to Westminster, in 1306, on the morrow after Trinity-sunday, to take into consideration an order concerning the aid for creating the king's eldest son Edward a knight. The conferment of the honour of knighthood upon the prince of Wales, was the prelude to another descent upon Scotland. Robert Bruce, grandson of the competitor in 1290, was now in arms to vindicate his claim to that throne. John de Hastings had a grant from the king of all the county of Menteth with the isles, and the whole of the lands and possessions of Alan, earl of Menteth, who had rebelled against the English. Edward I. died before his arrival in Scotland. He besought his son, as he dreaded his malediction, not to inter his body, until he had totally subdued the country. The new monarch did not obey the command of his father. He totally neglected the Scottish affairs for some time; and when at last he marched to the north, the fatal battle of Bannockburn secured the national independence of the Scotch.

John de Hastings was summoned as a baron of the realms to the different parliaments from the 23rd of

June, 1295, to the 22nd of May, 1313. He was likewise seneschal of Aquitaine. He was twice married. By his first wife, Isabell, daughter of William de Valence, and sister and coheiress of Aymer, earl of Pembroke, he had three sons and three daughters. John succeeded him; William and Henry died without issue. The daughters were Elizabeth, married to Roger de Grey of Ruthyn, Joan, and Margaret. By his second wife Isabell, daughter of Hugh Despencer, earl of Winchester, he had two sons, Hugh of Gressing-hall, in Norfolk, and Thomas.

At the time of his decease, in 1313, he held, amongst other estates, Wigginton, with a sixth part of Tamworth, of the king, in capite, by service of the fourth part of a knight's fee.¹ The manor of Tamworth did not descend with Wigginton to John, son of this elder John. After passing, for a very brief space of time, to the crown,² it was assigned to Isabell, the widow of John,³ for the term of her life, undoubtedly as a part of her dowry. In her right, it was conveyed, about 1320, to Ralph de Monthermer, earl of Gloucester and Hereford, to whom she was married.⁴ But she was again sole possessor in 1325; and she long survived her second husband.⁵ She must have died soon after the year 1334, when we find her mentioned, for the last time.⁶ This side of Tamworth then passed to Lawrence de Hastings, grandson of the first John.

John de Hastings, father of Lawrence, succeeded to the greater part of the estates, when he was twenty-six years of age.⁷ He was the third baron of the family, being summoned to parliament from the 26th of Novem-

¹ Inquis. 6 E. II :—Shaw's Staffordsh. ² Court rolls, 6 E. II. ³ *Ib.*, 7 E. II.

⁴ *Ib.*, 13, 14 E. II. ⁵ *Ib.*, 19 E. II. ⁶ *Ib.*, 8 E. III.

⁷ Inquis. 6 E. II :—Shaw's Staffordsh.

ber, 1313, to the 20th of February, 1325, in which year he died. He was continually engaged in active service against the Scotch from 1310 to 1318; and he was present when the English received the terrible defeat at Bannockburn, on the 24th of June, 1314,—a blow to their pretensions, from which they were unable to recover.

But in 1319, he was associated with the lords in their insurrection to compel the king to banish the two celebrated favourites, the Despencers, whose imputed pride and covetousness constituted the motives of dislike. They were the father and brother of his mother-in-law. Very soon, however, he deserted the ranks of the discontented barons, and went over to the king, at Cirencester, by whom he was again received into confidence and favour. He was, shortly afterwards dispatched on a fruitless expedition into Scotland. From whence having returned, he was, in 1322, constituted governor of Kenilworth castle; and that office he retained until his decease. He married Juliana, grand-daughter and heiress of Thomas de Leybourne, a baron of much note. By this lady he had an only son. She survived him, and afterwards had two husbands, Thomas le Blount, and William de Clinton. In the latter person, was revived, in 1337, the title of earl of Huntingdon, which had lain dormant since the death of John Scott, a century previously.

Lawrence Hastings, at his father's demise, was only five years old. His tuition was committed to his father-in-law, William de Clinton; and he had the sum of 200 marks allowed to him annually out of the royal exchequer. On attaining his majority, he was, by letters patent dated on the 13th of October, 1339, created earl

of Pembroke. This title had become extinct on the death of his grand-uncle Aymer de Valence. About the same time, he was sent into Flanders to aid in the cause of Edward III., who claimed the throne of France, in right of his mother Isabell, daughter of Philip the Fair, all the male descendants of whom were dead, except the English king. According to the Salic law, no female hand could wield that sceptre. Philip of Valois, brother of Philip the Fair, was chosen by the French peers. The decision gave great offence to Edward; and he determined to enforce his claim by the sword.

In the following year, the king summoned the chief of his nobility to attend him in his enterprise. Hearing that a fleet of 200 ships lay prepared to intercept him at Sluys, he sailed directly thither. There he achieved the first great naval victory of England, in the glory of which the earl of Pembroke participated. Meeting with the enemy off the harbour of Sluys, about ten o'clock on the morning after midsummer-day, the king grappled ship to ship and gave to the struggle the characteristics of a land-combat. The battle was obstinate and bloody. But in consequence of the English occupying the windward, their archers committed dreadful havoc, insomuch that the French to avoid them leapt into the sea, and attempted to swim to shore. The whole of the fleet was taken or destroyed, and 30,000 of the enemy, it is said, were killed or drowned. The next day, Edward entered the harbour of Sluys in triumph.

The news of the terrible defeat was received at the French court with great consternation. No one was found to possess the moral courage or the rashness to break the intelligence to Philip, and endure the first

ebullition of royal anger. At last the court-fool, in the absence of a bolder man, was induced, with much persuasion, to undertake the task. He went into the presence of the sovereign, exclaiming:—"Cowardly Englishmen, dastardly Englishmen, faint-hearted Englishmen." The king's attention being, at last, attracted by the continued repetition of the words, he demanded of the jester what he meant. "They durst not leap out of their ships into the sea, as our brave Frenchmen did,"—was the reply. Philip was immediately aware that some very great misfortune had occurred to the fleet. His attendants, after some hesitation, explained the circumstances fully to him. The French attributed their defeat to one of their commanders, Nicholas Buchett, who had manned his ship with undisciplined men, because they served for a much smaller payment than knights or soldiers.

The earl of Pembroke was present at the siege of Tournay; and he accompanied Edward in all his exploits, until the English returned to their own country, in the same year.

In 1341, he was again engaged on the continent to assist Jane, countess of Montfort. This heroic lady, on the imprisonment of her husband by Philip, on account of a dispute concerning the dutchy of Bretagne, took up arms to support her family and prevent its ruin. For the purpose of carrying out her design, she implored the aid of Edward. Closely besieged in Hennebon by Charles de Blois, she was reduced to such straits, from the want of fresh troops and the shattered condition, to which the enemy had reduced the walls of the town, that her council proceeded so far as to insist on her immediately surrendering. She entreated them to defer

only for a short time longer, and then, if no prospect of aid appeared, she would yield to them. Day after day, she paced the ramparts, with her eyes bent on the long line of waters towards the English coast. The lonely warder was only interrupted by the challenge of the sullen guard, or the complaints of the people. But one day, whilst gazing on the ocean, and listening to the remonstrances of her friends, she was seen to start; and a flush of gladness passed momentarily over her countenance. There was, she said, a misty spot upon the bosom of the deep. It was invisible to all save her quick and interested eye. After she had remained silent in suspended hope, for some time, the object became more apparent; and she exclaimed in extreme joy:—"Succours, the succours of England are coming,—no surrender now." The news spread instantly throughout the town; and the inhabitants rushed to the walls to watch the dark speck spread, divide, and at last resolve itself into a fleet of many sail. After a tedious voyage, caused by contrary winds, sir Walter Manney, with a considerable force of knights and soldiers, landed. They soon forced their way into Hennebon, where they were right hospitably received, and feasted in the castle.

Although the English were able to constrain Charles de Blois to retire from the siege, their forces were insufficient to afford much general assistance to the countess. Four months after, Edward himself went over with many nobles, among whom was the earl of Pembroke; and an army of 12,000 men. But, in the February following, a peace was concluded between the kings, through the mediation of two cardinals, the legates of pope Clement VI. As her cause had de-

clined, and was now nearly extinct, the countess was prevailed upon to take refuge at the court of England. She was consigned to the care of the chivalrous Pembroke and others, during her passage to London. Unsuspicious that they would be compelled to defend themselves in the voyage, they embarked in a small vessel. But when they were off the island of Guernsey, they fell in with sir Loyes de Spain, the ally of Charles de Blois. The shouts of the sailors first announced to the passengers that he was bearing down upon them with hostile intentions. All immediately flew to arms; the countess even took up the sword, and fought with the resolution of a knight. They had, indeed, need of all the forces they could muster; for their opponents were numerous. A fearful combat ensued, in which all parties exhibited their valour. The close of day caused a cessation, and farther violation of the treaty by sir Loyes. At midnight, a storm of so great violence arose, that the English believed the day of judgment was at hand. Providentially its only effect was to prevent a renewal of the battle, by separating the combatants. The earl and heroine were happy to escape on terms so easy; and they afterwards landed in safety. Of her, we hear no more; for her cause became absorbed in the interest which Edward's struggles for the crown of France created.

During the remainder of his life, the earl of Pembroke was engaged in the wars abroad. He shared in the splendid victories of Edward and the Black Prince, which are so well known from the common histories of our nation. He constantly gave proofs of his great and untiring bravery. He married Agnes, daughter of Roger Mortimer, earl of March. By her, he had an

only son and heir, named John. He died on the day after the decollation of St. John the Baptist, 1349, probably of the plague, which then raged violently throughout England, and cut off nearly half of its inhabitants. He was only a little more than thirty years of age. He then held, amongst other possessions, in his demesne as of fee, the Staffordshire part of Tamworth, for which was paid the accustomed rent of 5*l*.¹

John de Hastings, second earl of Pembroke, was a little more than a year old at his father's death. On coming of age, in 1369, he was despatched into France, to aid in the fresh war, which had broken out with England. There he manifested that he inherited a full share of the chivalrous spirit of those days. At the head of 300 knights and esquires he committed great havoc in Anjou, and amassed very great spoils.

But it happened that, one day, whilst resting for the evening at the village of Puirenon, he was suddenly attacked by a troop of French, who rushed into the place with their cry of "Our Lady of Sancerre, for the marshall of France." Not being sufficiently vigilant, he was unprepared for the onset. Most of his men were killed or taken; and he lost the whole of his booty. The earl and a few knights and archers saved themselves by a precipitate retreat into a preceptory of the Templars. They immediately barricaded the place, determined not to surrender so long as the most distant hopes of escape remained. This brave resolution they carried into effect; and when the French attacked them, they defended themselves with success, until night closed in and gave them time to recruit their strength. Aware that he could not hold out long, unless he re-

¹ Inquis. 23 E. III:—Corporation Records.

ceived succour, the earl, whilst the French were asleep, despatched an esquire to sir John Chandos, one of the principal English commanders, at Poitiers. The messenger lost his way in the dark.

At the dawn of day, the French renewed the attack on the preceptory. They soon mounted the walls; but the earl and his band fought with such determination and fury, that the assailants were driven back: and they dispersed themselves to collect mattocks and pikes, in order to have recourse to the unknighly scheme of unhousing the little band of English by breaking down the walls. Disappointed of the expected succour, the earl, in the absence of the foes, summoned another esquire and said to him:—"Friend, take my courser, go out at the back postern, ride direct to Poitiers, and show sir John Chandos the state and danger that we are in. Commend me to him by this token and deliver it to him, for he knows it well." At the same time, he gave to the messenger the signet-ring from his finger.

About nine o'clock in the morning, the first esquire, having regained his path, arrived at Poitiers. He found Sir John at mass; but he did not hesitate to disturb his devotions. The knight was so offended at the earl of Pembroke, that he refused to aid him, and deliberately heard mass throughout. Whilst he was engaged in his ablutions previously to dining, the second messenger entered, tired, pale, and covered with dust, and his steed in a foam from hard riding to avoid capture by the pursuing enemy. Kneeling, he presented the ring to sir John, saying, "Right dear sir, the earl of Pembroke commends himself to you by this token, and heartily desires your assistance to relieve him from his present danger at Puirennon." Chandos took the

signet, merely observing that if the earl were in so great difficulties, he could not assist him. He then proceeded to dinner. But during the meal, he was grave and silent; as were also his friends, who were vexed at his resolution. In the middle of the second course, he suddenly started up and said,—“Sirs, the earl of Pembroke is a noble man, and of great lineage: he is son of my natural lord, the king of England, for he hath married his daughter, and in every thing he is companion to the earl of Cambridge. He hath requested me to go to him, and I ought to consent to his desire.” He then left the table, crying “Gallant knights, I will ride to Puirennon.” Every one rose and followed him; and soon the trumpets summoned all to arms.

The earl of Pembroke still continued a successful defence, even against the French mattocks. He had, however, given up all hopes of relief. When on the point of surrendering because of weariness and the shortness of provisions, he espied the banners of his friends, with more than two hundred spears, glittering on the hills, in the rays of the evening sun. The French saw them, too, and fled. The English then joyfully left the village, and met the advancing troops about a league distant. After keeping company for nine miles, Chandos returned to Poitiers, and Pembroke went to Mortaigne. Thus ended this singular adventure, so characteristic of the bravery and spirit of the age of chivalry.

In 1371, the earl had to lament the death of his friend, sir John Chandos, who was slain in the desperate battle near the bridge of Lusac. And subsequently he witnessed, and unavoidably aided in, the decline of the English cause in France, after the decease of the Black Prince.

He was made commander-in-chief of the English forces in the principality of Aquitaine, in 1272, when he was only twenty-five years of age. In June of the same year, he sailed with a fleet of forty ships for the continent. Rochelle was then closely besieged by the French; and he determined to sail there to relieve his countrymen. No sooner had he arrived at the harbour, when he fell in with a powerful squadron, which was sent to the assistance of the enemy by Don Henry, king of Castile. Before he could completely arrange his vessels in the line of battle, the Spaniards commenced a furious onset. The combat raged until the evening of the ensuing day; when the Spaniards gained a complete victory, with comparatively little loss to themselves. Their ships were larger than those of the English, and possessed the novelty of being well armed with cannon, by which great havoc was committed. All the earl's vessels were lost, most of them being burned; and the whole of the royal treasure of 20,000 marks, with the supplies intended for Edward's troops abroad, fell into the hands of the Spaniards. The earl himself and all his officers were made prisoners. This signal defeat proved the ruin of Edward's cause in France. He was unable to carry on the war with efficiency. Guienne, Ponthieu, and the other provinces became an easy prey to the constable of France; and finally very few places remained in the hands of the English.

The earl of Pembroke endured a long captivity in Spain; and his fate was, for a long time, unknown. At length, he contrived to send intelligence of his existence to Bertrand Clekyn, constable of France; who, with the characteristic nobleness of the time, which honoured valour even in an enemy, negotiated, and at length procured his release, for a large ransom. The

earl proceeded to Paris, in order to see his deliverer. From thence he directed his course towards England. But before he reached Calais, he died so suddenly, that suspicion was entertained of his having been poisoned. This opinion, however, appears to have had little more foundation than surmise. The Spaniards were absurdly accused of having administered to him a fatal draught, the operation of which they were able indefinitely to regulate, until they had received the stipulated ransom.

The earl of Pembroke was a knight of the most noble Order of the Garter. His decease took place on the 16th of April, 1375; and his body, being conveyed to England, was interred in the choir of the friars-preachers' church at Hereford. He was the first English subject who followed the example of Edward III. in the quartering of arms. On his escutcheon, placed upon the north side of that king's monument, in Westminster abbey, are found—Or, a manche Gul., for Hastings; Barry Arg. and Az., an orle of martlets Gu., for Valence. He married first Margaret Plantagenet, fifth daughter of Edward III., who was accounted one of the most learned and accomplished ladies of the age, and was the great patroness of the poet Chaucer. She died without issue; and the earl took as his second wife Ann, only daughter and heiress of sir Walter Manney, K. G. For this purpose, he obtained a special papal dispensation, on account of the lady being related to his first wife just within the degree of consanguinity, prohibited by the strict ecclesiastical laws. She was grand-daughter of Thomas de Brotherton, earl of Norfolk, the uncle of Edward III. By her he had an only son,

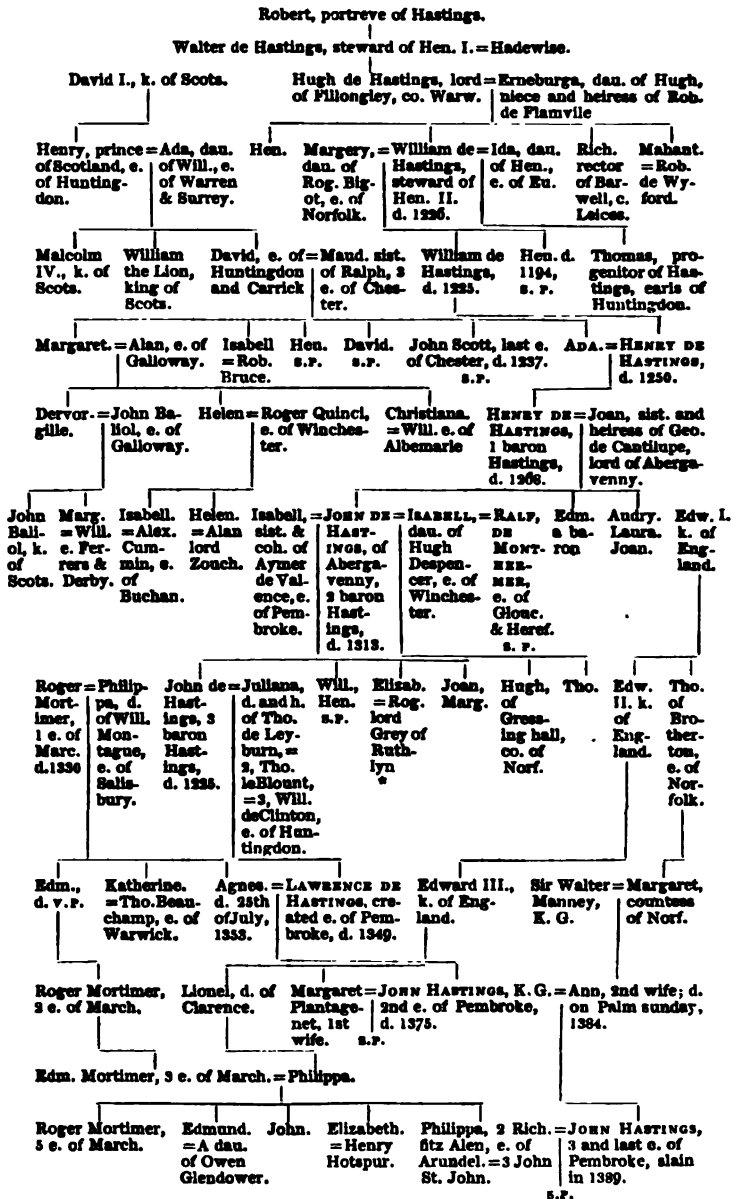
John Hastings, third earl of Pembroke, who, at his father's death, was an infant. His guardianship was thereupon committed to his grand-mother Margaret,

relict of sir Walter Manney.¹ At the coronation of Richard II., on the 16th of June, 1377, being then little more than four years of age, he asserted his right to the honourable service of carrying the great golden spurs. His claim was fully substantiated; but, on account of his youth, the office was assigned to Edmund Mortimer, earl of March, as proxy, to whose daughter the young earl was even then espoused.

In 1389, he attended the king during the time that the court was celebrating the Christmas festivities at Woodstock. There he met with an untimely and melancholy death, on the 30th of December, when he was but seventeen years old. Whilst jousting with sir John St. John, he received, owing to an accidental slip of his opponent's lance, a tremendous blow in the lower part of the abdomen. Being so severely injured that the intestines protruded from the wound, he directly fell from his horse. The alarmed attendants immediately rushed to his assistance; but he expired almost directly in the greatest agony, before he could be removed from the spot. This unfortunate circumstance threw a deep gloom over the whole court, and effectually put a stop to the joyousness of the season; for he was highly esteemed by all, being a nobleman of very great promise, and of an affable and generous disposition. He married Philippa, daughter of Edmund Mortimer, third earl of March; but he died childless, and with him the earldom of Pembroke became extinct. He was buried in the church of the Grey friars, near Newgate, in London, now called Christ church. There his monument, of very fair and beautiful workmanship, stood, until it was defaced in the religious revolution of the sixteenth century.

¹ Court rolls, 12 R. II.

ARMS OF HASTINGS:—OR, A MANCHE GUL.



On the death of the last earl of Pembroke, his estates passed to his next heir, Reginald, lord Grey of Ruthyn, grandson of Roger, who, as we before said, married Elizabeth, daughter of John, second baron Hastings. Amongst them, Wigginton was included; though such was not the case with Tamworth. The moiety returned again into the immediate possession of the crown; where it ever after remained.¹ And here we leave the Staffordshire side of the town, to give the history of that part in the county of Warwick.

From the time of the conquest nearly to the close of Henry IIIrd's reign, the Warwickshire side of Tamworth continued in the immediate possession of the crown. For it, were rendered the aids, which we have before specified; and, in 1236, the annual fee-farm rent amounted to 4*l.* 16*s.*² But in 1266, the king granted it, with all the royal demesnes in the other part of the town and Wigginton, to Philip de Marmyon, lord of the Castle, at a yearly rent of 34*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* After the restoration of that portion belonging to the Hastings' family, he still retained this moiety, and held it until his death in 1291. It then returned into the hands of the king.³

Edward II., in 1317, bestowed it upon Baldwin Frevile, during the royal pleasure, for the old accustomed sum of 4*l.* 16*s.*

The lease to Frevile very soon expired; for the king, in the next year, gave this part of the town to the inhabitants, under the title of men and tenants, their heirs and successors for ever; with all liberties, free

¹ Court rolls, 16 R. II., 21, 29, H. VI.

² The account of the Warwickshire part is derived from Dugdale's history of the county, except where other authorities are mentioned.

³ Court rolls, 12, 20 E. I.

customs, commodities, profits, easements, and others belonging to it, which they and their ancestors had reasonably held. A reservation was made of the ancient rent, with 20*s.* increase, and of tallage, aids, and other customs usually paid to the crown in past times.¹ This grant subsequently received confirmation from every king down to the time of Edward IV. Thus we have the letters patent of Edward III., dated in 1331; of Richard II., in 1377; of Henry IV., in 1400; of Henry V., in 1414; of Henry VI., in 1438; and of Edward IV., in 1467.²

In 1317, the inhabitants obtained royal licence to take toll for all commodities brought here for sale, a half-penny for every quarter of wheat, &c., during the space of three years, to defray the expences of paving the town. At the expiration of the specified time, in 1320, the licence was renewed for a similar term. But it would appear that the profits of the tolls were insufficient for the completion of the design; as grants, for the same purpose, were made by Edward II., in 1325, and by his successor in 1328, 1336, and 1341.

Besides these concessions for the improvement of the moiety, the inhabitants, in 1337, obtained a charter from Edward III., empowering them to establish two annual fairs, one to be held on the feast of St. George the Martyr, the other on that of St. Edward the Confessor, with the usual courts of pie-poudre; and both to continue for three days afterwards. And in 1441, another patent was granted for taking toll of all vendible articles, during the four ensuing years, towards the completion of the pavement, and the repair of Bolebridge.

¹ Pat. 4 E. III., per inspeximus:—Corporation Records.

² Corporation Records.

We find that on the 1st of July, 1509, the fee-farm rent of 5*l.* 16*s.* was, amongst others, assigned for life as a part of the portion of the unfortunate but noble-minded and virtuous Catherine of Arragon, the first consort of Henry VIII. To her it was paid in half-yearly sums at Michaelmas and Easter. She enjoyed it until the period when the pride of the king, aroused at the probability of his family failing in the male line, and the smiles and blandishments of a fairer rival, led to her divorce. The payment then, on the 21st of March, 1633-4, passed to the second wife of the king, Ann Boleyn. But when she too was supplanted by the arts which she had employed, and had terminated her short career by a mournful death, it passed to Jane Seymour, third wife of Henry. This lady held it until her decease, on the birth of a son, afterwards Edward VI. In 1587, the rent returned to the crown, and rested there.¹

Having now spoken of each separate side of the town, we must return to the history of Tamworth generally.

From the reign of Richard II., to the commencement of that of Elizabeth, very few incidents occur of particular interest. We can trace little, except such circumstances as are almost necessarily connected with the bare existence of the place. Situated in the very midst of the kingdom, far removed from the precincts of the court, and from the busy strife of political movements, it continued in its wonted peaceful state, undisturbed and almost unobserved. Yet in one or two instances, the town emerged from its general obscurity to obtain some degree of celebrity throughout the country. On the first occasion, it comes before our notice in a more

¹ Acquittances, temp. H. VIII:—Corporation Records.

amusing manner than perhaps the whole history of other places could present, whose names rank higher in the annals of our country. In the reign of Edward IV., an incident is said to have occurred, which has afforded the subject of a long ballad of very great fame in olden times, entitled "King Edward and the Tanner of Tamworth." It arose from the circumstance of the king's meeting, in an hunting excursion, a tanner, whose homeliness was made the butt of royal wit. The poor man, mistaking his majesty for a robber, afforded him much amusement; but he was well rewarded in the end. We will, however, allow the quaint rhymes of our merry forefathers to relate the tale. Those of our readers who are acquainted with the locality, will at once recognize the place of meeting to have been on the recently enclosed heath, between Sutton Coldfield and Basset's pole; from whence the tanner must have been journeying to Tamworth.

In summer time, when leaves grow greene,
And blossoms bedocke the tree,
King Edward wolde a hunting ryde,
Some pastime for to see.

With hawke and hounde, he made him bowne,¹
With horne, and eke with bowe;
To Drayton Basset he tooke his waye,
With all his lordes a rowe.

And he had ridden ore dale and downe,
By eight of clocke in the day,
When he was ware of a bold tanner
Come ryding along the waye.

A fayre russet coat the tanner had on,
Fast buttoned under his chin,
And under him a good cow-hide,
And a mare of four shilling.

"Nowe stand you still, my good lordes all,
Under the grene wood spraye;
And I will wend to yonder fellowe,
To weet² what he will saye.

¹ i. e. ready.

² i. e. to know.

God speede, God speede thee," said our king,

"Thou art welcome, sir," sayd hee:

"The readiest waye to Drayton Bassett,
I praye thee to shewe to mee."

"To Drayton Bassett woldst thou goe,
Fro the place where thou dost stand?
The next payre of gallows thou comest unto,
Turne in upon thy right hand."

"That is an unreadye waye," sayd our king,
"Thou doest but jest I see:
Nowe shewe me out the nearest waye,
And I pray thee wend with mee."

"Awaye with a vengeance!" quoth the tanner:
"I hold thee out of thy witt:
All daye have I rydden on Brocke my mare,
And I am fasting yett."

"Go with me downe to Drayton Bassett,
No daynties we will spare;
All daye shalt thou eate and drinke of the best,
And I will paye thy fare."

"Gramercye for nothing," the tanner replyde,
"Thou payest no fare of mine:
I trowe I've more nobles in my purse,
Than thou hast pence in thine."

"God give thee joy of them," sayd the king,
"And send them well to priefe."
The tanner wolde faine have beene away,
For he weende¹ he had beene a thiefe.

"What art thou," hee sayde, "thou fine fellowe,
Of thee I am in great feare,
For the cloathes, thou wearest upon thy backe,
Might besecme a lord to weare."

"I never stole them," quoth our king,
"I tell you, sir, by the roode."

"Then thou playest as many an unthrift doth,
And standest in midds of thy goode."

"What tydinges heare you," sayd the kynge,
"As you ryde farre and neare?"

"I heare no tydinges, sir, by the masse,
But that cowe-hides are deare."

"Cowe-hides! cowe-hides! what things are those?
I marvell what they bea?"

"What art thou a foole?" the tanner reply'd;
"I carry one under mee."

"What craftsman art thou," said the king,
"I praye thee tell me trowe."

¹ i. e. supposed.

" I am a barker, sir, by my trade ;
Nowe tell me what art thou :"¹

" I am a poore courtier, sir," quoth he,
" That am forth of service worne ;
And faine I wolde thy prentise bee,
Thy cunninge for to learne."

" Marrye heaven forsend,"¹ the tanner replyde,
" That thou my prentise were :
Thou woldst spend more good than I shold winne
By fortye shilling a yere."

" Yet one thinge wolde I," sayd our king,
" If thou wilt not seeme strange,
Thoughe my horse be better than thy mare,
Yet with thee I faine wolde change."

" Why if with me thou faine wilt change,
As change full well maye wee,
By the faith of my bodye, thou proude fellowe,
I will have some boot of thee."

" That were against reason," sayd the king,
" I sweare, so mote I thee :"²
My horse is better than thy mare,
And that thou well mayst see."

" Yea, sir, but Brocke is gentle and mild,
And softly she will fare :
Thy horse is unrulye and wild, I wiss ;
Aye skipping here and there."

" What boote wilt thou have ?" our king reply'd ;
" Now tell me in this stounde."
" Noe pence, nor half pence, by my faye,
But a noble in gold so round."

" Here's twentye groates of white moneye,
Sith thou wilt have it of mee."
" I would have sworne now," quoth the tanner,
" Thou hadst not had one pennie."

But since we two have made a change,
A change we must abide,
Although thou hast gotten Brocke my mare,
Thou gettest not my cove-hide."

" I will not have it," sayd the kyng,
" I sweare, so mought I thee ;
Thy foule cove-hide I wolde not beare,
If thou woldst give it to mee."

The tanner hee tooke his good cove-hide,
That of the cow was hilt ;
And threwe it upon the king's sadelle,
That was soe fayrlye gilt.

1 i. e. forbid.

2 So might I thrive :—a kind of oath.

" Now help me up, thou fine fellowe,
 'Tis time that I were gone :
 When I come home to Gyllian my wife,
 Sheel say I am a gentilmon."

The king he tooke him up by the legge ;
 The tanner a f * * * lett fall.
 " Now, marrye, good fellowe," sayd the kyng,
 " Thy courtesye is but small."

When the tanner he was in the kinges sadelle,
 And his foote in the stirrup was ;
 He marvelled greatlye in his minde,
 Whether it were golde or brass.

But when his steede saw the cow's taile wagge,
 And eke the blacke cowe-horne ;
 He stamped, and stared, and awaye he ranne,
 As the devill had him borne.

The tanner he pulld, the tanner he sweat,
 And held by the pummil fast :
 At length the tanner came tumbling downe ;
 His necke he had well-nye brast.

" Take thy horse again," with a vengeance he sayd,
 " With me he shall not byde."
 " My horse wolde have borne thee well enough,
 But he knewe not of thy cowe-hide.

Yet if againe thou faine woldst change,
 As change full well may wee,
 By the faith of my bodye, thou jolly tanner,
 I will have some boote of thee."

" What boote wilt thou have," the tanner replyd,
 " Now tell me in this stounde ?"
 " Noe pence, nor half pence, sir, by my faye,
 But I will have twentye pound."

" Here's twentye groates out of my purse ;
 And twentye I have of thine :
 And I have one more, which we will spend
 Together at the wine."

The king set a bugle horne to his mouthe,
 And blewe both loude and shrille :
 And soone came lords, and soone came knights,
 Fast ryding over the hille.

" Nowe, out alas !" the tanner he cryde,
 " That ever I saw this daye !
 Thou art a strong thiefe, yon come thy fellowes
 Will beare my cowe-hide away."

" They are no thieves," the king replyde,
 " I sweare, soe mote I thee :
 But they are the lords of the north countrey,
 Here come to hunt with mee."

And soone before our king they came,
And knelt downe on the grounde :
Then might the tanner have beene awaye,
He had lever than twentye pounds.

" A collar, a collar here," sayd the king,
A collar he loud gan crye :
Then wolde he lever then twentye pound,
He had not beene so nigh.

" A collar, a collar," the tanner he sayd,
" I trowe it will breed sorrowe :
After a collar commeth a halter,
I trow I shall be hang'd to-morrowe.

" Be not afraid Tanner," said our king ;
" I tell thee, so mought I thee,
Lo here I make thee the best esquire
That is in the north countrie.

For Plumpton-parke I will give thee,
With tenements faire beside :
'Tis worth three hundred markes by the yeare,
To maintaine thy good cows-hide."

" Gramercye, my liege," the tanner replyde,
" For the favour thou hast me showne ;
If ever thou comest to merry Tamworth,
Neates' leather shall clout thy shoen."¹

1 i. e. cow's 2 Percy's Reliques of ancient English poetry.

¶ There appear to have been several alight variations in different copies of the ballad. For instance, the author of the "Art of English poeasie," 1889, quoting the terminating line of the fourth verse from the end, as an example of the vicious mode of speech, called by the Greeks, *ACYRON*, makes the tanner exclaim in his fright at the liberties which he had taken with the sovereign, "I hope I shall be hanged to-morrow," meaning, "I am afraid I shall be hanged,"—a perversion of language not entirely extinct among the lower orders at the present day. Again, the next verse is restored from Selden's "Titles of Honour." This celebrated author brings forward the ballad as no contemptible authority to show that one mode of creating esquires, at the time, was by the imposition of a collar; for it is worthy of notice that no doubt has ever been expressed of the actual occurrence of the adventure between the king and the tanner, or of the correctness of the popular relation. In other places, the verse ran thus:—

Awaye with thy fure, thee jolly tanner,
For the spert thou hast shewn to me,
I wote noe halter thou shalt weare,
But thou shalt have a knight's fee.

This seems to have been a later version; and is, in fact, far from being correct. Percy, before he met with the amendment in Selden's work, believed that the tanner was created a knight, and that the rustic mistook the word "acolade" for "a collar;" or that the imposition of a collar was the only ceremony needed. But these conjectures are wrong. A collar was really demanded; and knighthood could only be conferred by giving the accolade, or blow with the sword, which is not directly stated to have been adopted on this occasion.

It is, indeed, incredible, that the king should have admitted into the rank of knights, then so esteemed and honoured, an ignorant and boorish tanner. The title of esquire was certainly the highest which he could have bestowed. It was left for sovereigns subsequently to the reign of Elizabeth to degrade the sword of knighthood by laying it, almost without discrimination, upon those alike unfitted in station and personal qualities. Some other better and more suitable means of reward might surely be devised for those whose only weapon was the goose-quill, or whose greatest feat the presentation of a loyal address. Then the once dignified institution of knights might be confined within its legitimate and proper limits, and constitute a mark of distinction in the army for bravery, or at least in such cases, where deeds of prowess and intrepidity have been achieved. But truly the age of chivalry is fled, and its honours prostrated in the dust.

GENERAL HISTORY:

CONTINUED.

In the time of Richard III., Tamworth again became a place of notoriety. Henry, earl of Richmond, with his forces, passed through it on his way to Bosworth, where he was about to encounter the army of the king.

To the throne of England, Richmond had been induced to aspire, by the promises of support which he received from the numerous and powerful adherents of the house of Lancaster, who were discontented at seeing one of the opposite faction of York in possession of the regal authority. On account of his intrigues, he had been compelled to quit the country; but, after a short time, his party having increased, he determined to prosecute his ambitious schemes with the sword.

For this purpose, on the 1st of August, 1485, Henry embarked for England at Harfleet, in Normandy, with about 2,000 troops, in a few ships. Directing his course towards Wales, after seven days' sail, he arrived at Milford-Haven; where he landed. It had been his first intention to direct his course to London, and attempt to seize the capital at once. But now, hearing that Richard was in the north, he changed his plans, and resolved to meet the king, in order by one great blow to decide the fortunes of the war. He marched to Shrewsbury, and afterwards to Stafford.

From thence he proceeded to Lichfield. His forces, during the whole time, received continual augmentation by desertions from the party of Richard.

Breaking up his camp at Lichfield, the earl of Richmond, on the 18th of August, sent forwards his troops to Tamworth. He, himself, followed with a body-guard of twenty light-horsemen. Midway between the two places, he was met by sir Walter Hungerford and sir Thomas Bouchier, knights, with many others. They had secretly quitted the royal army, a little beyond Stoney-Stratford; and fled, under the cover of night, by unfrequented and circuitous paths, until they encountered the earl. After a few words of courtesy and kindness, Richmond sent on his new allies to join the rest of the company. Falling into a fit of deep abstraction, whilst musing on his fortunes and reflecting on his hazardous enterprize, he lingered so far behind his troops that he entirely lost sight of them; and they arrived at Tamworth without him. It was then sunset; and, night rapidly closing in, he missed his way, perhaps at Coton, near Hopwas. After wandering for some time, he came to a little village about three miles distant, probably Elford. Fearing that he might fall into the hands of Richard's scouts who were spread throughout the whole country, and alarmed at the report which he had heard of the king's arrival in the immediate neighbourhood, he dared not address any person to ask for a guide or enquire the direction of the town. He was, therefore, compelled to dismount and conceal himself as well as he could. Every moment, afraid that his horse should betray him, dreading the slightest sound, and frequently imagining that some foe was approaching, he spent the night in anxious watchfulness and perturbation.

The first faint glimmerings in the east, which announced the dawn of day, must have been joyfully welcomed by Richmond. When the light had sufficiently increased, he re-mounted his horse. Fortunately discovering the town, he arrived there in safety to the great satisfaction of his followers. Amongst them, his unexpected absence had caused much wonderment and consternation.

Henry considered it impolitic to confess the truth, lest his accident might damp the ardour of the soldiery. He, therefore, stated that he had been to an appointed place, and had received favourable intelligence from some of his secret friends. After his accession to the throne, he first gave a true account of this singular adventure.¹

After riding publicly through the streets of Tamworth that his safety might be well known, and his troops reanimated by his presence, he again left them and went to Atherstone. There, in a small and retired field, he conferred with lord Stanley, his father-in-law, and sir William Stanley, concerning the measures necessary to be adopted in the impending battle.² Although

¹ Such is the commonly-received version of Richmond's supposed strange and perilous adventure, in his march from Lichfield to Tamworth, on the evening of Thursday, August 18, 1485. But it will not, we think, be difficult to shew that Richmond most probably deviated from his path for the express purpose of secretly conferring with some friends of his cause, or visiting his mother, or other members of the Stanley family: and that he spent the night either at Whittington, or Elford, then the property and occasional residence of the Stanleys. This view of the subject receives some corroboration from the statement given by Richmond himself, of the cause of his portentous absence, on the morning of his arrival at Tamworth. The Author's Father, who has paid some attention to this curious and interesting point of historical research, has promised to concentrate in a note, all the information which he possesses, or hereafter may be enabled to collect, on the subject. The result of his investigations will be given in the appendix.

² This memorable interview is stated by Hutton—*BATTLE OF BOSWORTH-FIELD*, p. 59—62.—to have taken place on the night of Saturday, August 30, in a little field called the 'Hall-Close,' "situated one hundred yards behind the Three Tuns, joining the Coleshill road on the left, through which the canal now passes." It is, moreover, somewhat loosely intimated by the same writer that "Henry slept one night at least" at the said inn, which formed his head-quarters. If this statement be correct, Miss Strickland's account of Richmond having lost his way on the night of the 30th, upon Atherstone-moor in returning from his interview with the Stanleys, must be utterly destitute of foundation. From what source, the highly-gifted and generally accurate historian of "the Queens of England" derived her materials for this very improbable story, we are at a loss to conceive. The writers, to whose authority she refers—Speed, Rapin, and Hutton at least—do not, in the most distant manner, advert to it.

a secret friend and adviser, the former had not yet openly advocated Richmond's cause. Richard had retained lord Strange, as an hostage for the fidelity of his father; and had treason been suspected, the son would at once have been sacrificed. But in the battle, Stanley took the side which his paternal affection had prevented him from previously acknowledging.

On the evening of the same day, Richmond was joined by sir John Savage, sir Brian Sandford, and sir Simon Digby. They had deserted with their friends and followers, from Richard's party, then with him at Leicester. Having returned to Tamworth, the earl marched thence with all his forces to encounter the army of the king: and the two rivals met in the neighbourhood of Market-Bosworth, in Leicestershire. On Monday, the 22nd of August, the battle was fought. Richard, who, whatever may be the crimes laid to his charge, was a brave and accomplished soldier, displayed his courage in a remarkable manner. Discontent and treachery, however, were rife amongst his troops. His army was defeated, and he, himself, slain in the thickest of the fight. The battle thus decided, the army of Richmond sang the *Te Deum*. Clapping their hands, they saluted him with the title of Henry VII. And the crown of Richard was placed by lord Stanley on the head of the conqueror.¹

The connection of Tamworth with the history of the nation, at the translation of the sceptre from the house of York to that of Lancaster has not escaped the notice of the mighty bard of the Avon. By his pen, the town has been recorded in the immortal page, which would

¹ Hall's Union.—Hollinshed's Chronicles of England, &c.

transmit its memory, even if the place of its existence should be forgotten. In the play of Richard III., one of the most celebrated of his historical tragedies, a scene of the fifth act is laid in a plain near Tamworth. There Richmond is represented as thus addressing his followers, to inflame their minds, and urge them on, with greater boldness to the battle-field.

“ Fellows in arms, and my most loving friends,
 Bruis'd underneath the yoke of tyranny,
 Thus far into the bowels of the land
 Have we march'd on without impediment;
 And here receive we from our father Stanley
 Lines of fair comfort and encouragement.
 The wretched, bloody, and usurping boar,
 That spoil'd your summer fields and fruitful vines,
 Swills your warm blood like wash, and makes his trough
 In your embowell'd bosoms, this foul swine
 Lies now even in the centre of this isle,
 Near to the town of Leicester, as we learn:
 From Tamworth thither is but one day's march.
 In God's name, cheerly on, courageous friends,
 To reap the harvest of perpetual peace
 By this one bloody trial of sharp war.”

Shakespeare, in designating Richard III. as a wild boar, has given him the opprobrious appellation, by which he was often distinguished amongst his adversaries, and the friends of Richmond. The name was first suggested by the king's having a hog for one of the supporters of his arms. In 1484, William Collingburne, of Lydiard, in Wiltshire, was hanged, drawn, and quartered, for high treason, in aiding the cause of the earl, and writing the following satirical distich upon the king and the three royal favourites, lord viscount Lovel, sir Richard Ratcliffe, and sir William Catesby.

“ The cat, the rat, and Lovel the dog,
 Rule all England under a hog.”¹

¹ Holinshed.

Until the period when Elizabeth re-incorporated the town, Tamworth was placed under two distinct and independent, but similarly constituted, governments, for the two sides. Each of them consisted of two high-bailiffs, one low-bailiff, two tasters or victual-conners, and two chamberlains. There were, besides, a constable or head-borough, and numerous watchmen. We also find that, at a very early period, there existed a high and a low-steward.

In the high-bailiffs, the government of the town was wholly vested; and, as in other places, they presided over the courts. They were elected every year, generally, although not invariably, on the first Monday in July. The oldest names, which we have yet found, are those of William Taylor and Adam Palmer, on the Warwickshire side, about 1245. They were witnesses of a grant of several parts of burgages in the town, by William de Blackreeve to Philip de Marmyon, for 30s. paid by his wife, lady Joan. Of the names of many more, we have collected a list, down to the time of Edward VI., chiefly from the court-rolls of the town, and from amongst the witnesses of deeds. In one or two instances, the days of election have been discovered from the former source.¹

There is very little worthy of remark concerning these officers, except a few bye-laws for their regulation. On the 20th of October, 1422, it was ordered that none should serve in the office, for more than one year.² In 1436, it seems to have been necessary to restrain their combative dispositions by a very heavy fine; for, on the 10th of July, it was ordained that any one of them, who should make an affray in another borough,

1 See Appendix:—Note 2. 2 Court rolls, 1 H. VI.

or assault any man in his own, except in self-defence, should pay 40s., half to go to the common box of the town, and half to the benefit of the Church.¹ Richard III. charged the bailiffs and commonality no longer to pay regard to the custom of choosing them out of their burgesses and freeholders, but to respect the sufficiency of persons' goods alone. The document was dated at Nottingham, on the 12th of October, 1484.²

The low-bailiff was appointed annually soon after the high-bailiffs, apparently on no particular day. His office seems to have been to summon parties to the courts, and transact other similar business, under the direction of the superior officers. The names of several occur in the court-rolls of the town.³

The two tasters were also chosen annually, the precise day being varied according to convenience or necessity: and they took an oath to perform the duties with fidelity. Their office was to supervise all ale, wine, and food of every kind, exposed for sale; also all weights and measures, and to report at the court-leet whatever they considered as bad or suspicious, for adjudication.⁴

To the chamberlains, the charge of all the public pecuniary transactions was committed. The date of their appointment was also uncertain.⁵

Of the constable or head-borough it is needless to say anything. The names of some, in ancient times, have been preserved.⁶

The town, during the night, must have been very strictly guarded; for the watchmen were numerous. The inhabitants seem to have been obliged often to take the duty upon themselves, or to find some substitute.

¹ Court rolls, 14 H. VI.

² Harleian M.S.

³ See Appendix:—Note 3.

⁴ See Appendix:—Note 4.

⁵ See Appendix:—Note 5.

⁶ See Appendix:—Note 6.

There are many old bye-laws for their regulation, some of which are rather curious. May 30th, 1379:—Any person not prepared, at the summons of the bailiffs, to watch, and that faithfully, from the setting to the rising of the sun, according to the usual custom of the town, should incur a penalty of 4*d.* for every omission. May 30th, 1390:—If the men ordained to watch, should skulk under the walls of the houses, or behave ill, they should be fined 40*d.* And it was further ordered that every burgess of the town should send one able man to keep guard, or pay 40*d.* for each default. May 12th, 1422:—Any one assaulting the watchmen of the lord king should pay 20*s.*, half to go to the bailiffs, and half to the town-box. April 28th, 1547:—No watchman should be in his house after the hour of nine at night, otherwise he should pay 6*s.* 8*d.*¹

Although it was esteemed the most honourable of all, we have reserved until last the office of high-steward, because its duties were little more than nominal, and only called into exercise on particular occasions and emergencies. It was usually given to some nobleman or person of rank in the neighbourhood; who generally had a representative or low-steward in the town. The creation of the high-stewardship has always been attributed to queen Elizabeth. This opinion is, however, very erroneous. The first time we have yet seen it alluded to, is in May, 1382, when William de Caldewell, and William Wirley, baker, on admission to the freedom of the town, took the required oath before Richard Wolf, “*tunc loco seneschalli*,” and the bailiffs of the Staffordshire side. Each of them paid half a mark, “according to ancient custom.” On the other side of

¹ Court rolls, Staffordshire, 2, 13 R. II., 10 H. V., 1 E. VI.

the town, on the 12th of June, 1420, Richard Caldewell was made free in the presence of Richard Hilton, steward, and the bailiffs. And again, in Staffordshire, on the 23rd of August, 1452, John Breton, of Lichfield, was admitted to the liberty of the town and sworn before the steward.¹

This high appointment was held by sir John Ferrers, knt., lord of the Castle. It appears to have been previously enjoyed by some of his ancestors. He died in 1512; and was succeeded by his son Humphry; to whom a grant of the office was made under the great seal of England. The latter, in the exercise of his duties, appears either to have overstepped the bounds of prudence and legitimate authority, or to have excited the anger of those, against whom his power was exerted. There were many charges of assault upon different persons preferred against him, all in connexion with the stewardship. On these matters, however, we have only seen his general answers; we cannot consequently state the precise nature or extent of the accusations brought against him.²

John Ferrers succeeded his father in this office. After his decease, in April, 1576, it was bestowed on Humphry Ferrers, both by the crown, and by the corporation of the town, in the January following.³ With him we shall leave the subject at present, to resume it hereafter.

We have thus brought the general history of Tamworth down to the end of the reign of Philip and Mary. We must now speak of the modified form of government, under which Elizabeth placed the town, by letters-patent dated on the 24th of December, 1560.

¹ Court rolls, 5 R. II., 7 H. V., 29 H. VI.

² See Appendix:—Note 7.

³ Corporation Records.

The charter commenced by reciting that Tamworth was an ancient market-town: and the inhabitants, by the name of bailiffs and commonalty, had, from time immemorial, held it of the kings of England, at an annual fee-farm rent of 10*l.* 16*s.* And they had also enjoyed divers franchises, liberties, gifts, and acquittances, as well by prescription, as by royal concessions and patents. These charters being either lost or destroyed by fire or some other casualty, there were no sufficient letters-patent in existence. The inhabitants, therefore, humbly petitioned that the royal munificence might be extended to them, and the town incorporated anew.

The charter then, reserving the old rent, proceeded to constitute the town a free borough corporate, for ever, of two bailiffs and a commonalty of twenty-four capital burgesses, who were to form one body, called "the bailiffs and commonalty of the town of Tamworth, in the counties of Stafford and Warwick." They were empowered to hold lands and privileges, to plead and be impleaded, and to use a common seal in the transaction of their business. They were to hold common halls, where they were to make bye-laws and ordinances, for the well-government of the town: and these, if not repugnant to the statutes of the realm, they might enforce by fine or imprisonment. They were to choose the two bailiffs,¹ from amongst their own body, eight capital burgesses being present at least, on the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula,—the 1st of August,—annually, between the hours of nine and twelve in the morning. Any vacancy in the office, from death or removal, between the periods of election, was to be supplied in a similar way, until the appointed time arrived. In like

¹ Peter Bradock and Henry Draper were nominated in the charter as the first bailiffs.

manner, they were directed to fill up, within eight days, all vacancies in their own body,¹ occurring from death, absence from the borough for six months, or other cause. Two sergeants were to be appointed from time to time, at will, to make proclamations, arrests, &c. within the borough, in a similar manner to those of the city of London: and each was to bear before the bailiffs a silver mace, adorned with the royal arms. The boundaries of the borough were to remain the same as they had always been; and the bailiffs and commonalty might make perambulations of it without impediment.

The bailiffs were then constituted justices of peace within the borough. Before them was to be held a court of record on every third Monday. They were also to have a common jail for felons and malefactors. On warrant under their seal, the sheriffs of the counties of Stafford and Warwick were directed to receive any prisoners.

A market was to be held on every Saturday. There were to be two annual fairs, one on the feast of St. George, the other on that of St. Edward; and both to last for the four subsequent days. During the time when the market and fairs were held, there were to be courts of pie-poudre, with all liberties and free customs appertaining. The stallage, piccage, tolls, and all other profits, were to go to the personal advantage of the bailiffs. They were to have assize of bread, wine, ale, and victuals, as well as of measures and weights, and the correction of them, and of all things belonging to the office of the clerk of the market of the queen's household. The profits accruing were also to be appropriated by the bailiffs. View of frank-pledge of all

¹ The names of the first capital burgesses were given in the charter.

the inhabitants, whether entirely resident or not, was granted. It was to be held twice in the year, once within a month after the feast of St. Michael, and again within the same limits after Easter, before the bailiffs; who were to take the profits for their own use. And, finally, the charter empowered the corporate body to acquire lands and other possessions, of the annual value of 40*l.* or less, notwithstanding the Mortmain act, or any other statute.¹

From the preamble of the charter, it is evident that the concessions which Elizabeth thus made were rather renewals of those previously enjoyed, than fresh grants. Yet the change introduced by her in the form of government of the town, by the appointment of a self-elective corporation, in whom she vested all local powers, was of very great importance, especially in the political aspect under which we shall soon have occasion to view it. With regard to other minor modifications, most of them will have been already anticipated by the reader. The queen included both sides of the town under one jurisdiction; reduced the bailiffs to two; and altered the time of their election. She substituted sergeants-at-mace for the low-bailiffs; and entirely abolished the victual-conners. The ancient office of chamberlains was continued, although not under any chartered provision.

In the tremendous religious revolution, which occurred in the middle of the sixteenth century, it became a most important object either to a Catholic or Protestant government, to gain over, and if possible control, the powers which the people possessed in the House of Commons. Both parties called to their aid the whole

¹ Charter, 3 Eliz. :—Corporation Records.

of the resources which they possessed. It became a time of the most active employment of the discretionary powers of the sheriffs of different counties, as to what places should be considered parliamentary boroughs. None were now omitted, which, in public estimation, had a prescriptive right. We accordingly find that, in the reigns of Edward VI., Philip and Mary, and Elizabeth, seventeen boroughs resumed the privilege, which they had once exerted, but permitted to fall into disuse; and forty-six more now first began to send representatives: thus making an addition of 123 members to the lower house. Amongst the latter, Tamworth commenced the exercise of its powers, in 1563. Ever since, it has continued to return members, with the exception of a short period during the commonwealth.¹

But the most novel assumption of power, at this time, was that of remodelling, by governing charters, the municipal constitutions of the new or revived boroughs. The local government of them was vested entirely in a small select body, ever afterwards to be self-elected. In many places, too, the return of the parliamentary members was given entirely to this corporation, or was adopted by it with the tacit consent of the crown. The latter appears to have been frequently the case with Tamworth, in Elizabeth's reign.² Thus the people were deprived completely of all municipal and political power, and placed under the domination of persons chosen by the crown; over the actions of whom they possessed not the least control.

The nomination of the first officers was always from the partizans and supporters of government. The people were thus secured to the interest of those in power.

¹ See Appendix :—Note 8.

² Corporation Records.

Or, on the other hand, they were incapacitated from expressing their sentiments in a constitutional manner, or to act, at least with any efficiency, against the designs of their existing rulers.

These were the schemes to which Edward VI., and, in a few instances, Philip and Mary resorted. But it was left for Elizabeth to adopt such courses to the greatest lengths which prudence would permit. They formed the first and most important step towards a subsequent attempt to overthrow the whole liberties of the people, and to establish a despotism. But the reaction, which, after some time, took place, proved the madness of the design, and well nigh terminated in a way very opposite to that which was intended. The result was a long and terrible struggle between the crown and people, when the whole fabric of monarchy was shaken to its foundations, and, for a brief space, that power destroyed, which it had been sought so unduly to exalt.¹

The year, in which Tamworth assumed its prescriptive right, and revived as a place of political importance, was one of misfortune to it, from another circumstance. The town was then visited by the plague,—that dreadful scourge, which so frequently desolated other parts of the kingdom, and especially the metropolis. The notice of its appearance here, occurs in the Parish-register; but, at the same time, no account is given of the extent of its ravages. From the beginning of November, 1560, to December, 1563, there are no entries in the record, nor is there any space left in the leaf; but this note occurs. “The names of them y^t wer buried of y^e plague in An^o d’ni 1563.” The names, however,

¹ See Penny Cyclopædia:—Art. Borough.

are not given. Whether they were ever inserted, or were omitted by the minister, who transcribed the early part of the register, cannot be ascertained. Deaths from the plague are again mentioned in July and August, 1597; when the disease extended to Wilnecote, and the neighbourhood.¹

To the close of the reign of Philip and Mary, under the ancient system of government, the fee-farm rent for the Warwickshire side of the town appears to have been punctually rendered. But the new corporation neglected its payment for three and twenty years; until, in 1582, they were involved in a debt of two sums, one of 116*s.*, the other of 127*l.* 12*s.* In the Michaelmas term of this year, they obtained an order that no legal process should be awarded against them, until they should have had time to bring in their charter and plead during the ensuing term.²

For a short-time, we must recur to the details of chartered grants. Elizabeth had already given to the corporate body, as the representative of the town, many of the privileges, which the inhabitants had formerly enjoyed. But there still remained others, for the continuance of which she had not provided. A second application to royal bounty, therefore, became necessary. The inhabitants found a ready advocate in the celebrated favourite, Robert Devereux, earl of Essex, who had then risen high in his sovereign's favour, and possessed no small influence at court. He was closely connected with the town; and took much interest in its welfare. His mother resided at Drayton-manor; and there he spent a great part of his time. Through his mediation, the queen granted a second charter, bearing

¹ Parish-register.

² Corporation Records.

date on the 10th of October, 1588, by which many important concessions were made.

By these letters-patent, the inhabitants were freed from being put with strangers upon any juries, occurring without the limits of the town, unless they should hold possessions not within these bounds, for which they ought to be empannelled. And no strangers were to be intruded upon those required in the borough, even though they possessed lands and tenements there, unless the matter should concern the sovereign of the realms. And the bailiffs and commonalty were empowered to elect, from time to time, at pleasure, a recorder of the town. They were also to have a high-steward. This office was given to Robert Devereux, earl of Essex, and his heirs male for ever; in default whereof, the bailiffs and capital burgesses might have the choice. And besides, there was to be a town-clerk, or prothonotary of the town, for all courts, and views of frank-pledge or leets. Previously to assuming office, he was to take the necessary oaths in the presence of the chief steward. The bailiffs, high-steward, recorder, and town-clerk, the three latter of whom were not to accept office without royal approval, were to be justices of peace within the precincts of the town. The court of record was to be held on every third Monday, before any two of them, or the under-steward; of whom, however, a bailiff was to be one: and they might determine any cases as well of assizes of novel disseizin, mort d'ancestor and fresh force, as of all other actions, suits, and personal matters. A fair was granted to be held on the feast of St. Swythen, and for four days after, with the usual court of pie-poudre. The bailiffs and commonalty were to have all waifs and strays, and employ

them for their common benefit. The bailiffs were to be included in all commissions of array of men-at-arms, hobelars, and bowmen, within the borough. And the corporate body was still to enjoy all rights, jurisdictions, franchises, liberties, privileges, lands, tenements, rents, commons, waters, fisheries, and other easements, profits, and emoluments, which had previously been given to them by royal grant, or private donation.

The bailiffs and commonalty were then constituted a body corporate, under the title of "Guardians and Governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods, of the Free Grammar School of Elizabeth, queen of England, in Tamworth."¹ As the charter now enters into matters which regard the Church and School alone, we shall defer giving the remainder, until those foundations come under our immediate notice.

Upon the concessions thus made by Elizabeth, no observations are needed, except in the case of the high stewardship. This subject, indeed, is rather curious, and worthy of attention.

When we formerly spoke of this office, we left it in the hands of Humphry Ferrers. By him, it was held when the queen conferred it on the earl of Essex and his heirs. This second grant, without any annulment of, or even reference to, the former one, caused some difference between the rival stewards; which threatened to proceed to some lengths. Humphry Ferrers, who insisted that his patent was still of force, referred the matter to William Cecil, baron Burleigh, then lord high treasurer of England. He was, however, prevailed upon by this minister-of-state to forego all proceedings against the royal favourite, in a matter involving only

¹ Charter, 30 Eliz.:—Corporation Records.

an honorary title. As a compensation, he was promised some other post of higher dignity and greater emolument. Whether any reward were made to Humphry, afterwards sir Humphry Ferrers for his forbearance, we have not discovered. It is certain that, perhaps in continual expectation of receiving it, he consented to let the matter rest: and nothing more is heard of it for some time. But immediately on the attainder of the gifted but unfortunate Essex, for high treason, sir Humphry resumed the office, by virtue of his old grant. He was, however, doomed a second time to be disappointed; for it was given, under the great seal of England, to sir John Egerton. It is only justice to add that this was done in ignorance of the previous circumstances. It was certainly somewhat anomalous; for the crown had assumed the appointment, which, by the charter, was placed principally in the hands of the corporate body.

Sir Humphry Ferrers was, at this time, determined to carry on the matter, and vindicate his claim. He wrote to lord Buckhurst, first lord of the treasury, and to sir Robert Cecil, representing his case to them. He stated that the office had been previously held by his great-grandfather, and others of his ancestors, and that it had also been given to him. He had, he said, served her majesty faithfully and with great zeal, as a justice of peace in three counties, when the most arduous exertions were required. He doubtless alluded to the period, when the unfortunate Mary, queen of Scots, remained a captive at Tutbury-castle, in Staffordshire. No cause of misdemeanor had been found in him, whereby his patent should be forfeited; and he trusted that, in regard to his services and his right, the office,

which was valueless in point of emolument, might be restored to him.¹

The towns-people also actively took up sir Humphry's cause, on account of his residence at the Castle; whilst sir John Egerton lived at a distance. They presented a petition in his favour to king James I.; who had then just ascended the throne.² After a little delay, the stewardship appears to have been given back to him. He did not live very long to enjoy the honour, of which he had been unjustly deprived for fifteen years; for he died in January, 1607.

About the period when Elizabeth conferred her second charter on the town, there arose a considerable dispute between many of the inhabitants and Humphry Ferrers. The latter held the Castle-mill situated on the Tame, for himself and his heirs for ever, of the queen, at an annual fee-farm rent of 10*l*. To it, these inhabitants owed suit and soke, and had all their corn ground there. But, during the space of more than three years, they gradually adopted the use of small malt-mills or querns, at their private residences: and latterly they carried all their grain to mills at a distance from the town. Humphry Ferrers was, at length, compelled to have recourse to legal measures to enforce his right.

He accordingly preferred his complaint to the honourable court of Exchequer. After some time, he obtained an injunction to oblige the inhabitants to grind all their corn at his place, and to restrain the use of the querns; which threatened to prove a very serious detriment to, and even eventually to ruin, his mill.³

1 See Appendix:—Note 9.

2 See Appendix:—Note 10.

3 Corporation Records.

A little previously, we gave a short outline of the mode in which Elizabeth, for the purpose of carrying out the designs of her government, found it necessary to exalt the royal prerogatives. There was now only one more step which she could adopt, in order to secure the parliament to herself,—to dictate to different cities and boroughs the persons who should be elected as their representatives. And, to this scheme, we find that she really had recourse, by means of her agents. The interference occurred more with regard to small places, or those where her partizans possessed much influence. The following letter, written by the earl of Essex previously to the election in 1592, contains some of the nominations for places in Staffordshire; and amongst them for Tamworth. Other counties were similarly influenced: and hence is seen the great extent to which the practise was carried.

Robert Devereux, earl of Essex, to Richard Bagot, esq.

“After my hartie commendacions. I have written severall letters to Lichfield, Stafford, Tamworth, and Newcastle, for the nomination and election of certen burgesses for the Parliament to be held verie shortlie; having named unto them, for Lichfield, sir John Wingfield and Mr. Broughton,—for Stafford, my kinsman Henry Bourgcher and my servant Edward Reynolls,—for Tamworth, my servant Thomas Smith,—for Newcastle, Dr. James,—whome, because I do greatlie desire to be preferred to the said places, I do earnestlie pray your furtherance, by the creditt which you have in those towns, assuring them of my thankfulness, if they shall for my sake gratifie those whom I have commended; and yourself that I will not be unmindfull of

your courtesie therein. So I commend you to God's good protection: from Hampton-Court, the last daye of December, 1592.

Your assured friend,

ESSEX."

"I send unto you the severall letters, which I praye you cause to be deliuered according to their directions."

Of the persons thus named, sir John Wingfield, Richard Broughton, Henry Bouchier, Thomas Smith, and John James, M.D., were actually returned; besides one of the knights of the shire, sir Christopher Blount, whom, in another letter to Richard Bagot, the earl had pointed out as being considered a proper representative.

Very shortly after this time, if we may credit a long series of heavy charges brought against them, the bailiffs of the town unfortunately did not adhere to the integrity of conduct, which should ever characterize those to whom the dispensation of justice is committed. The corrupt practices, of which several of them were accused in the execution of their office, are set forth in a paper written at the time, entitled, "Notes of the abvses of the bailiffes of Tamwo'th." Nine are implicated by name, John Stokes, Thomas Ashlock, William Shemon, Robert Seale, John Wright, Peter Bradock, Nicholas Wilcox, John Turner, and Henry Baron. The document, from its singularity, has been inserted in the appendix: and thither the reader may turn for full information on this point.² Each may then judge as he thinks best of the guilt or innocence

¹ Erdeswicke's Survey of Staffordshire, by Harwood, edit. 1844. This letter was, amongst others, brought forward by Canning, to show the undue influence formerly exercised over elections. in a speech delivered on the 28th of April, 1833; when a motion for parliamentary reform was discussed in the House of Commons.

² See Appendix:—Note 11.

of the parties; for, in the absence of any other record on this point, it would be impossible to give any decided opinion. If the whole should be false, we must censure the malevolence of the accuser: if true, we can only lament the circumstance, and wish it had been in our power to present some points, which would redeem the characters of those accused, or mitigate their condemnation. Shakespeare well remarks, in speaking of cardinal Wolsey,

"Men's evil manners live in brass; their virtues
We write in water."

So concerning the bailiffs, the bad remains on lasting record: whilst to learn the good, we fain must send our readers to the stream to see what they may find. We fear the watery page is blank; and that the cleansing flood, in opposition to its wonted course, has washed away the whole, and left the stain behind. Once, indeed, the hand which traced the stream with useless toil, wrote on the sandy shore, a short but pleasing word. It was "Charity"; and Peter Bradock claimed it as his own. But over it now the swelling wave has passed, and scarcely left a single mark behind.

The next incident worthy of notice, is the re-appearance of the pestilence in the town, in 1596. This dreadful disease seems to have raged with great fury, aggravated by the partial famine, which then prevailed in the country. The deaths were so numerous here, that the distress occasioned by the insufficient supply of corn was, in some measure, alleviated; according to a memorandum in the Parish-register, March, 1597-8. "Dyvers died of y^e blouddie flixe. At w^{ch} tyme the darth of corne somewhat abated by reason of deathe & dauske Rye."

In the last few years of Elizabeth's protracted reign, there occurred a long and important law-suit between the bailiffs and commonalty, and William Comberford, regarding the Staffordshire part of the town. To this moiety, the latter claimed a right. The grounds on which his demands were founded were—that frequently, whilst the Hastings' family held it and Wigginton, these two places were considered as forming but one manor:—that, as owner of Wigginton, he received the fee-farm rent of 100s. from the bailiffs, in equal quarterly sums:—and that he had sometimes held the court-leet of Wigginton in the Staffordshire Town-hall: at which he had induced some poor inhabitants of the town to do suit. He, and his son Humphry for him, demanded the power of proclaiming the fairs; but the bailiffs prevented them from carrying their intentions into effect by threats of immediate arrest. Mr. Comberford then sent men to dig and delve within the precincts of the town; thereby asserting his right to it. The bailiffs and commonalty now commenced an action in common law against him for trespass. Having, by some means, obtained possession of numerous important documents, he caused no small degree of trouble to the corporation. But at length, an injunction, dated the 21st of May, 1599, was obtained; by which he was compelled to produce the records. The bailiffs and commonalty were then enabled to substantiate their rights, and completely overthrow their opponent's cause.¹

In October, November, and December, 1606, the town was re-visited by the plague; but it does not appear to have been very violent in its ravages.²

During the frequent progresses which James I. made

¹ Corporation Records.

² Parish Register.

through the kingdom, in the latter part of his reign, Tamworth was favoured several times with the royal presence. The first visit is thus recorded in the Parish register:—

“August, 1619.

Kinge James & Prince charles.

The 18th day. James, oure noble Kinge, & y^t worthy prince Charles came to Tamworth. The Kinge lodged at y^e castell; And y^e prince at the mothall. Mr. Thomas Ashley & Mr. John Sharp, then belieffes, gaue royall entertaynment.”

On his host, sir Humphry Ferrers, the king had previously conferred the honour of knighthood, during his stay at Warwick. But the same distinction was not extended to Mr. William Comberford; whose house the prince made his residence. The kind of reception given to the royal visitors has been passed over in silence by historians. Imagination, however, may easily supply the void; and an acquaintance with the festive customs of those times add the particulars. The king remained in the town during the whole of the 19th. On the following day, he created Philip Eaton a knight, probably just before he quitted the town on his way to Warwick, for a second time.¹

Two years subsequently, James I. paid another visit to Tamworth; whilst prince Charles remained at Kenilworth. On the 21st of August, 1621, he came to the Castle; when he knighted sir Edmund Windsor. Here he remained until the following morning; and then he continued his progress to Warwick again.

The king made a third and final visit to this town in August, 1624. On the 19th, he dined at Wichnor,

¹ Nichols' Progresses of James I.

² Ib.

in Staffordshire. On his arrival here, in the evening of the same day, at the seat of sir Humphry Ferrers, he knighted sir John Skeffington, of Skeffington, in Leicestershire; who was, at that time, high sheriff of the county of Stafford. The prince did not accompany his father, but stayed at Kenilworth. In the ensuing day, the king proceeded to Bastwell-hall.¹

In the Parish-register, there is no notice taken of either the second or third visits of James; but there occurs the following entry:—

“August, 1624.

26, was bur. John Clarke, the King’s servant.”

In 1626, the plague appeared again in the town, but for the last time. In October of that year, there were eleven persons buried, “cum multis aliis ratione pestis,” the names or number of whom have not been recorded.²

In the unhappy and disastrous civil wars, which arose in the middle of the sixteenth century, Tamworth took a very active part. The long disputes between the parliament and Charles I., terminated in the assumption of royal prerogatives, totally incompatible with the constitution. The king, finding that he could not control the legislative body, at last tried to rule independently of their authority: and the parliament as stedfastly refused to yield up the power vested in them. The long series of encroachments on the freedom of the people, which had been gradually carried on from the days of Elizabeth, was brought to a crisis. No resource was left for either side, except the maintenance of their claims by an appeal to arms, or an unconditional submission to the other party. But nei-

¹ Nichols’ Progresses.

² Parish Register.

ther would compromise their cause in the least degree. The people now took the side which they believed correct, or which interest and passion indicated. To the king's standard, flocked the major part of the members of the old and noble families of the land.

To the aid of the parliament, congregated immense numbers, especially of the middle and lower classes. Indeed, from a conscientious opposition to the despotism which the king endeavoured to establish, many attached themselves to the popular side, who equally disliked the democratical system which they were unawares aiding to set up, and who would have drawn back in dismay had they been able to foresee ultimate consequences. But neutrality was next to impossible. Such a course would have rendered a person the object of suspicion and dislike to both factions; and would have entailed certain ruin, which might have been avoided, partially at least, by joining either party. At first, the balance of justice was undoubtedly on the side of the people. But soon it preponderated in favour of the royalists, in consequence of the extreme lengths to which the parliamentarians resorted. Of the two evils, a despotism and a democracy, the choice undoubtedly lies vastly in favour of the former.

Another great cause of the outbreak of the civil war, must be sought in the peculiar religious temper which prevailed very generally throughout the country. The doctrines of the puritans, although discountenanced by the state, and even attempted to be extinguished by civil means, had spread like a pestilence amongst the people. At the same time, the high-church principles advocated by archbishop Laud, and which Charles endeavoured to enforce so long as he had any authority,

gave great scandal to these puritans and to the presbyterians. They also alienated many in the establishment, who had imbibed the spirit of these men. Such persons now took the opportunity of expressing their sentiments, and upholding their opinions in public. So greatly did these motives prevail, that the war, commencing at first in civil causes, after a very short period, entirely assumed the aspect of a religious strife: and soon we have a mournful picture of the dreadful lengths to which an erroneous and unbridled enthusiasm is calculated to carry the human mind.

The refusal of the governor of Hull to admit the king within the walls of that town, constituted the first signal for warfare between the royalists and the parliamentarians. Charles then went to Nottingham; where he unfurled his banner on the 22nd of August, 1642. Directly the trumpet of war re-echoed throughout the whole land, and sounded the mutual defiance of the hostile companies. All the principal towns and castles of the kingdom were now garrisoned by the soldiers and friends of either party; who prepared to assert and maintain their cause. Hence began the desolating commotions, which, after a time, terminated in the death of the unfortunate king, and in the subversion of the whole country.

At what precise time troops were first placed at Tamworth, and to whom the command of them was given, we have not been able to discover with certainty; but, in the autumn of 1642, the Castle was occupied by the king's party. About the same time, the close of Lichfield cathedral, which was then walled round and capable of being well defended, was taken possession of, by sir Richard Dyot and his friends. They

placed themselves under the command of the earl of Chesterfield, a firm adherent to the cause of his sovereign. Nearly the whole of the surrounding neighbourhood declared itself in favour of Charles. It was soon a scene of active and stubborn warfare. On the 1st of March, the republican forces marched to Lichfield and invested the close. A fierce attack took place on the following day. Lord Brook, the parliamentary general, whilst directing the siege, was accidentally killed. He was struck in the eye by a stray shot, fired from the body of the cathedral. His loss spread much consternation through his troops; but sir William Gell, with great promptitude, assumed the whole command of them. He carried on his measures so efficaciously, that, in three days, the royalists were compelled to surrender. On the 5th, the earl and his party marched out of the close, to make way for their opponents.¹ Great hopes were at first entertained by some of the royal party, that they might be able to expel the rebels who were left to defend the place, before they should be well recovered and settled after the loss of their general. For this purpose, colonel Hastings, then at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, wrote a most urgent letter to the earl of Northampton. He pointed out the success which might attend the attempt to take Lichfield, and the comparative ease with which it would be effected. He besought the earl, therefore, to march speedily to Tamworth; whither Scudamore, an officer, had withdrawn, on hearing of the enemy's advance towards Stafford. From this town, the latter also wrote for further direction, as to the manner in which he should proceed.

¹ Shaw's Staffordshire.

“ My most honoured lord,

I am extreemly joyed to hear you are at Henley-in-Arden with your forces, and beseech you to advance to Tamworth, which will be the greatest service that ever was done the king; for, with God's blessing, we shall beate them out of Lichfield, or suddenly starve them all, beeing there is noe reliefe can come to them, nor have they any provision for a day, nor horse to fetch in any, I having soe much the greater number. Their strength consists of several garrisons, which are now left very weake. I have a certainty of their number, by the confession of diverse prisoners, and confirmed by severall intercepted letters. Their number is as follows:—six small troopes of horse and dragoones, 300 foote came with lord Brooke, 400 with Gell, and some 300 Morelanders; but part of them armed, and noe fighters. I, God willing, will attend your lordship with sixteene troopes of horse and dragoons, and can, upon a night's warning, call in 1000 foote in Staffordshire, halfe of them armed, soe that, with your lordship's forces and mine, we shall make a good body of an army. And I have canon carriages, six pound bullets, and store of small pieces, and, within six dayes, can have culvering and demy-culvering. My lord, you know it hath ever beene my expressions and designs to waite upon you in any action, which I shall doe in this to the utmost of your command. God hath given this faire opportunity to your lordship to make you the most glorious and happie servant to his majestie. The enemies we are to encounter are full of distractions with the loss of their lord generall, and under severall commands, and the souldiers raw and inexperienced, but rich wth plundered

goods. My lord, I doubt not, with God's assistance, of a most happie success, and that you will returne, laden with honour and riches, and take all this side of Warwickshire in your way, who have beene great rebells to the king, and are full of wealth, which will be the reward of your and your souldiers paines: your lordship may surveye your forces to take many armes and horses. Indeed, my lord, your presence will be of infinite advantage, and without it, this countrey is in danger to bee lost, and the rebells grow to a great body, that now are not considerable; therefore let nothing divert you from this great and good worke. As soone as I know your lordship's resolution, God willing, I will suddenly waite upon you, and doubt not thus better to satisfie you then I can by letter. But I beseech you believe this, were not the designes grounded upon much reason and great probability of happie success, I should not thus earnestly press your lordship, that am to yourselfe, my lord Compton, and your gallant family,

Your most faithfull and affectionate servant,

H. HASTINGS.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Wednesday, 7 o'clock."

[the 18th of March, 1642.]

"To the right honourable, my much honoured lord, the earl of Northampton, At Henley-in-Arden, within eight miles of Colshill, present this."

"My Lord,

At 12 o'clocke this present Wednesday, wee received intelligence from a boy that most of their forces, both horse and foote, with some pieces of canon, were marching towards Stafford, which made us presently draw all our forces to Tamworth; where we shall expect, by this night's intelligence, a certain place

of rendezvous, where we shall joyne with your lordship's forces, and so constantly march in one body. What intelligence wee shall receive this night, your lordship shall have present notice of; and we desire to have the like. My colonell stais at Ashby this night, expecting some assistance from Newarke, there being the last night three of their principall gentlemen sent to him with full assurance (in my hearing) that they would march when he pleased into those parts of Leicestershire, or where he would appoint. These forces are all horse, which they may well spare, and doe his business for Leicestershire. Whereby hee may the better be spared from those parts to attend your lordship. Yesterday wee received intelligence that eight cornetts of horse were advanced from Derby to Leicester. And this day it is confirmed that they are returned backe, and the lord Gray is gone with a small partie for Northampton. I doe expect my collonell here by eight in the morning, and if your lordship shall appoint an earlier hower at the rendezvouse, I shall move with these forces towards you. I now speake with your lordship's messenger, and I perceive by him that you doe not know of our being here; but we shall have a care of the business this night. And if their cartes (as is reported) stand laden in Lichfield streets, it is likelier they will hasten for Burton rather than hither. Thus having no more at present, I kiss your lordship's handes, being

Your lordship's humble servant,

B. SCUDAMORE.

Tamworth, 8 in the night."

"I humbly desire that my service may be presented to colonell Wentworth, and sir Thomas Byron."

1 Shaw's Staffordshire.

The earl of Northampton was too much occupied in other parts of the country to adopt colonel Hastings' advice and march hither to afford aid in recovering Lichfield. Both these gallant soldiers commanded the royal troops in the combat which took place on the 19th of March, at Salt-heath, near Stafford, against those of sir John Gell and sir William Brereton. There the king's party was completely defeated; and the earl, himself, unfortunately slain.¹

The royal forces at Tamworth, however, were a source of very great and incessant annoyance to the enemy at Lichfield. They did not encounter the republicans so much in set fights; but they adopted the more harassing and efficacious mode of continually sending out small bodies of men to attack them, when they were off their guard, or when any good prospect of success presented itself. This kind of warfare they kept up both day and night. One of the officers of the royalists, who amused himself by keeping a diary of his marches, says that this place, with Rushall-castle, another small garrison of the king's, "did keep their holy brethren from dulling their spirits with over much sleep, in giving them several alarms, no rest nor respite night and day, with some particularized skirmishes."² But on the 21st of April, 1643, prince Rupert reduced Lichfield-close, and compelled colonel Russel, the republican commandant, to capitulate. The government of the place was thereupon committed to Henry Bagot; who remained there until his defeat, a little more than two years after.³

Tamworth probably enjoyed a short repose from warfare for the space of two months; when its capture by

¹ Shaw's Staffordshire.

² M.S. quoted by Shaw.

³ Shaw's Staffordshire.

the enemy once again placed it in opposition to Lichfield. The parliamentary troops, under the command of colonel William Purefoy, marched from Coventry; and commenced storming the Castle, on Wednesday, the 23rd of June. It endured two days' siege; when the little garrison, after having made a very stout resistance, was compelled to surrender on the 25th.¹

Republican forces were then placed here; and the command of the Castle was given to captain Waldiva



JOHN WILLINGTON, of Willington, in the county of Derby, was father of

NICHOLAS WILLINGTON, who was contemporaneous with Robert, *Abbot of Burton*, in the reign of King Stephen. He was succeeded by his son,

NICHOLAS WILLINGTON. Both he and his father were liberal benefactors to the convent of Repton. He was father of Hugo Willington living 38 H. III.; to whom succeeded next in the male line,

RALPH DE WILLINGTON, who settled in Gloucestershire, *temp.* king John; and afterwards founded St. Mary's Chapel in the abbey of St. Peter's at Gloucester, now called the "*Lady-Chapel*." He m. Olim-

pias daughter and heiress of William grandson & heir of sir Humphry Franc, and was father of

SIR RALPH DE WILLINGTON, living 37 H. III.; who m. Joan, dau. and heiress of Sir William Champernowne of Umlerleigh, in Devon. His son,

SIR RALPH DE WILLINGTON, styled by Risdon "*a worthy warrior*," was governor of the castle at Exeter 38 H. III., and sheriff of Devon 42nd of the same reign. He m. Juliana, dau. and heiress of Sir Richard de Lomen; and had issue,

I. **JOHN DE WILLINGTON**, summoned to Parliament as a Baron from 3 Ed. III. to 12 of the same reign; when he d., leaving by Joan his wife, a son and heir

RALPH DE WILLINGTON; who was summoned to Parliament as a Baron 16 Ed. III. This Ralph was in the wars of Scotland and France. He m. Elynor, dau. of John lord Mohun of Dunster, but d. S. P. in 1349, when the Barony became extinct.

II. Sir Reginald, d. S. P. 29 Ed. 3.

III. Sir Henry, of whose line we have to treat, and

IV. Thomas, living 22 Ed. 3. The third son,

SIR HENRY WILLINGTON, Knight Banneret, was with his eldest brother John made prisoner at the battle of Bannockburn. He subsequently took part with the earl of Lancaster, and

¹ Pariah Register. Hamper's Life of Dugdale. There is a letter, in the Harleian M.S., from queen Henrietta-Maria to the earl of Newcastle, informing him that Tamworth was lost.

Willington. This gentleman was of a very ancient family, which, coming out of Gloucestershire, was seated at Hurley-hall in the neighbourhood. Under him were appointed two deputy-governors, Thomas Hunt and Richard Harvey. Owing to the vigorous measures and strenuous exertions of the able commandant, the royalists were never able to re-take the place, notwithstanding all their endeavours. To those at Lichfield, Tamworth became as obnoxious as it had previously been to the rebels there. Hopwas-bridge over the Tame, connecting the town with that city, was broken

was executed at Bristol in 1322. He m. Margaret, dau. of sir Alexander de Frevile, by Joan his wife, a co-heiress of the Marmyons of Tamworth; and left a son and successor,

SIR HENRY WILLINGTON, 23 Ed. III. He m. Isabell, daughter of sir John Whalesborough; and was succeeded by his son,

SIR JOHN WILLINGTON. He m. Matilda, daughter of Sir Walter Carminow, and had issue

I. RALPH WILLINGTON of Willington Court, Gloucestershire; who d. S. P. 16th of August, 1383.

II. JOHN WILLINGTON of Willington Court, who d. S. P. 1397.

III. ISABELL, co-heir, aged 25, s. H. IV. 1464; m. William, son of sir John Beaumont, of Shirwell.

IV. MARGARET, co-heir, m. John, son of sir John Wrothe.

JOHN WILLINGTON, the continuator of the male line. By Margery, his wife, he left a son and successor,

WILLIAM WILLINGTON, co. Gloucester, whose will is dated 22nd January, 1500. He was father of

JOHN WILLINGTON, co. Gloucester; who by different wives had two sons.

I. WILLIAM WILLINGTON of Barcheston, who (though the principal estates had passed to the Beaumonts and Wrothes) inherited considerable estates in the counties of Gloucester and Warwick, including lands at Brilles, co. Warwick; where the

family had held land from an early period. (John Willington, the first baron, and his father Ralph both held property there, temp. H. 3. and Ed. 2.) He m. Ann, widow of Thomas Middlemore, esq., of Edgbaston, and daughter of Richard Littleton, esq., of Pillaton, co. Stafford, by whom she had issue,

I. MARGERY WILLINGTON; m. first, Thomas Holt, esq., of Aston; and secondly, sir Ambrose Cave, knight, chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. By her first husband, she had a son, Edward Holt; who m. Dorothy, dau. of sir John Ferrers, of Tamworth Castle.

II. GODITH WILLINGTON, m. to Basil Fielding, of Newnham, ancestor of the earls of Denbigh.

III. ELIZABETH WILLINGTON, m. to Edward Boughton of Lawford.

IV. MARY WILLINGTON, m. to William Sheldon, esq., of Beoley and Brilles.

V. MARGARET WILLINGTON, m. to sir Edward Greville, ancestor to the Earls of Warwick.

VI. ANN WILLINGTON. m. to Francis Mountfort, esq., of Kingshurst.

VII. CATHERINE WILLINGTON, m. first Richard Kempe, esq. second William son of sir Richard Catesby, and third to Anthony, son of sir George Throckmorton.

II. THOMAS WILLINGTON, of Hurley-hall, 32 H. VIII. 1541. m. Joan, only dau. of Nicholas Nightingale, esq., and heiress of her mother Joyce, who was sister and heiress of John Waldyve. By her he had issue,

I. WALDYVE WILLINGTON, his heir.

down. But this circumstance would only serve to render the parties bolder, and the skirmishing between them of a more daring character. Governor Willington begged aid from the committee of parliament at Coventry, through the earl of Denbigh, as shewn by the following letter, that he might fortify the place in a more efficient manner, and be able better to withstand any assaults which might occur.

A rough draught endorsed:—

“My lord's I're to y^e Parliam^t in behalf of the go-
verno^r of Tamworth.”

II. JOHN WILLINGTON of Whateley; from whom are descended the Willingtons of Whateley and Tamworth.* Thomas Willington was succeeded by his eldest son,

WALDYVE WILLINGTON, of Hurley; who m. first Joyce dau. of George Winter, esq., of Worthington, co. Leicester; and secondly, in 1563, Margery, sister and co-heiress of Michael Bracebridge, esq., and by her had issue,

THOMAS, his heir, two other sons, and a daughter,

ELIZABETH WILLINGTON, who m. William, son of sir Walter Aston, of Tixall, and uncle to Walter, first lord Aston, of Forfar. Waldyve Willington d. in 1569. His eldest son,

THOMAS WILLINGTON of Hurley, m. 9th of July 1599, Alice, dau. of John Willington, of Whateley, and had issue, with two other sons and five daughters,

WALDYVE WILLINGTON, his heir, bapt. 18th of April, 1600. *The Governor of Tamworth Castle.* He d. in 1676; and was succeeded by his eldest son Waldyve Willington, who had issue three sons, William, Thomas, (grandfather of the last Thomas Willington, of Hurley, who d. S. P. in 1815,) and Waldyve. William the eldest d. S. P., leaving his youngest brother, Waldyve his heir. This Waldyve was high sheriff for Warwickshire 13 Geo. 1.; and dying 10th of September 1733, left a son William, who d. S. P. in 1752, and three daus., who became co-heiresses, only one of whom has left descendants. This was Susanna Willington, who m. Charles Floyer, esq., of Hints; whence by two daus. are descended the present families of Floyer, of Hints, and Levett, of Wichnor-park.

* John Willington of Whateley, d. August 1617. He had issue (besides a dau. Alice, who m. her cousin, Thomas Willington, of Hurley, the father of Waldyve Willington, who was governor of Tamworth) Anticle Willington, of Whateley, who had two sons, Thomas and George. The elder, Thomas, was father of another Thomas; who, by Mary his wife, dau. of John Swynfen, Esq., M.P. for Tamworth, in the reign of Charles II., had a son, Thomas Willington, who d. s. p., and a daughter and eventual heiress, Jane, who m. John Skip, esq., of Ledbury, high-sheriff for Warwickshire, 11th Geo. 1st.; from this marriage descends John Martin, esq., M.P. for Tewkesbury, present owner of the Whateley estate.

George Willington, the younger son of Anticle, was father of Richard, and he of another Richard; whose son, John Willington of Tamworth, had, besides daughters, five sons, John, of the Inner Temple; Bayly, Lieutenant-general in the army; Richard; Thomas; and Francis, rector of Walton-on-Trent; all of whom are now deceased without having left any issue male, except Thomas, who had a son, the present Francis Willington, town-clerk of Tamworth, who m. in 1625, Jane Ann, dau. of the late Henry James Pye, esq., of Farrington-house, Berks, formerly M.P. for that county; and has issue, Francis-Pye, Waldyve-Henry, John-Ralph, and Henry-Edward.

“ My lords and gentlemen,

Upon y^e request of capt. Waldivive Willington, governo^r of Tamworth castle, I am become an humble suito^r to yo^r lo'pps in his behalf, to bestow upon him a Saker and two Drakes, for the better strengthening of his garrison, for that he hath expressed his dutie in y^t place to y^e Parliam^t with a great deale of care and vigilancy; by w^{ch} meanes y^e place wilbe much y^e stronger, and be thereby more enabled to withstand any assaylants of the enemy in y^e line of communicacon betwixt Stafford and us, and without y^e help of w^{ch} none of our friends can safely passe for Lichfield garrison: and this favour of yo^r lo'pps to him herein shall much oblige yo^r most affect. & humble serv^t,

DENBIGH.”

The forces at Tamworth were maintained by contributions levied from all the surrounding neighbourhood. Weekly payments were demanded from every place, by each party. In return, protection from the ravages of the opposite faction was mostly expected. But it was often impossible to afford it continually and sufficiently. Then the pillaged people were compelled to render their aid to both rebels and royalists. The whole country was parcelled out amongst the different troops. The parliamentary committee at Stafford, on the 5th of January, ordered that the weekly pay of Bucknall and Fenton Magna, Biddle, Fenton and Longton, Tunstall-court, Hilton and Pencle cum membris, should be assigned to captain Thomas Hunt, for the payment of his officers and soldiers.¹ In the following month, Joseph Heath, of Weeford, and William, his son, obtained a mandate from the same committee, directing

¹ Shaw's Staffordshire.

that no officer or soldier belonging to the king and parliament should plunder their chattels or estates, without special licence, as they had duly paid 50*l.* levied on them for the maintenance of the garrison here.¹ In explanation of the expression "king and parliament" thus adopted, we may state that it was a common saying amongst the republicans that they were in reality fighting for the king, with the design of merely rescuing him from the evil councillors; by whom he was surrounded and led against his will. But their conduct when the king at last fell into their hands, proclaims aloud the falsehood of the plea, by which they attempted to ease their consciences and justify their actions.

In the following March, a very great effort was made by the royal party at Lichfield to take the town again. They repaired the bridge at Hopwas, in order that about two thousand men might pass over with ease. Waldive Willington, the governor, was forewarned by a trusty spy. He wrote to the earl of Denbigh and the parliamentary committee at Coventry informing them of the circumstances, so that measures might be taken to counteract the attempt.

"R^t ho^{ble} and the rest of the Comittee,

Wee have had a speciall frend that lay in Lichfeild the last night, who brings us certen intelligence that this day wee shalbe fiercely assaulted by fiteene hundred foote and five hundred horse, and that fower peeces of ordinance are advanced upon their carriages towards us, and that their randezvous is upon Hoppas Hill; where wee doe now discover diverse troopes of horse, many great companies of foote.

¹ Shaw's Staffordshire.

Our scouts have discovered them makeing up Hoppas Bridge; w^{ch} may be for the passage of the carriages and foote. Our scouts and theires have fyred one against another.

Yo^r

WALDYVE WILLINGTON,
THOMAS HUNT,
RICHARD HARVEY."

"Tamworth, 18 March, 1643,
[1643-4] at 11 of the clock in the day."

But the attempt of the royalists to regain the town was completely unsuccessful; and they were obliged to return to Lichfield, disappointed in their hopes.

On the 10th of May following, 1644, the earl of Denbigh, with a company of about two thousand men, marched from Coventry towards Tamworth.¹

On the 27th of October, an order was made by the committee at Stafford that captain George Bowes and all his soldiers should depart out of this garrison, by four o'clock in the afternoon; and not return without lawful order, at their peril. It was subscribed by Waldyue Willington, Thomas Layfeild, William Wood, Gilbert Dukeson, Thomas Voughton, Thomas Sawkin, Humphry Frodsham, Thomas Palmer, Thomas Knight, and Richard Battman.

Another order was made by this committee regarding lands at Haselour, laid under contribution for the troops here. "19 November, 1644. Forasmuch as it is informed that the commanders at Tamworth doe asseesse certen lands of the right hon^{ble} the earle of Meathe's, within Hassleore, which by the 400,000*li*. subserie was not assessed, nor, as is conceived, ought to be: it is there-

¹ Hamper's Life of Dugdale.

fore ordered that the said earle nor his tenants shall not be forced or constrayned to pay any levies or weekly pay to any of the Parliament forces for the said land, untill such time as Mr. William Brookes and the inhabitants of Hassleore, having notice of this order, shall appeare before us and show sufficient cause to the contrary.”¹

The incessant struggles between Tamworth and Lichfield, impoverished the whole country around, and plunged it into the deepest confusion. The land lay mostly uncultivated: for, as might be expected, no one would incur the risk and trouble of raising crops, which were nearly certain to be pillaged or destroyed by either party. Hence the land-holders suffered most severely in the wars. The rents of Mr. Francis Wolverston owner of Statfold, from his lands lying unoccupied, were reduced to less than 100*l.* a year. Yet out of this sum, he was compelled to give weekly 1*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* to the support of the republican army at Tamworth. As it could not constantly afford him sufficient aid, he was likewise forced to contribute to the maintenance of the royalists at Lichfield. Being thus oppressed, Tamworth alone taking nearly two thirds of his scanty income, he was compelled to apply to the parliamentary committee at Stafford, for a reduction of his payment to their party. He accordingly obtained an order, dated on the 29th of October, 1644; by which it was diminished to 10*s.* weekly, until farther order.¹ It was principally upon the higher and middling classes of society that the heaviest calamities fell. Persons were often compelled of necessity to take up arms, that they might maintain themselves, and preserve their families

¹ Additions to Erdswicks,—edit. 1844.

from actual poverty. The greater part of the lower orders had turned soldiers; and lived well by plunder acquired by the sword. Not a few of them added to their military character, that of a puritanical preacher. The country was completely over-run with these fanatical men. Persons of every trade forsook their earthly calling, in order to follow the dictates of the interior spirit; whose colour, perchance, they had forgotten or neglected to examine.

The warfare between Tamworth and Lichfield long continued with unabating fierceness. The hostile spirit of the two parties seems to have increased in acerbity and vehemence. Thomas Hunt, one of the commandants here, who had been originally a tradesman at Coventry, sent a personal challenge to colonel Henry Bagot, the royalist governor at Lichfield. It was couched in the most insulting terms, which its brevity would admit.

"Bagot,—thou sonne of an Egiptian hore, meete me half the way to-morrow morning,—the half way betwixt Tamworth and Litchfeald, if thou darest: if not, I will whippe thee whensoever I meete thee.

THOMAS HUNT."

"Tamworth this—December, 1644."

The combatants accordingly met on Whittington-heath; and a sharp encounter ensued. After some time, the challenger himself was compelled to turn round and fly before his opponent; who flogged him in his retreat, and very nearly succeeded in capturing him.¹

During the following year, the skirmishing with the royalists was incessant. On the 4th of July, the

¹ Mercurius Aulicus,—a royalist paper.

Scott's army came to this town. The next day, they passed on to Birmingham; from whence they went, on the 7th to Alcester.¹ In March, 1646, Lichfield-close was invested by the parliamentary army, under the command of major-general Lothian. The garrison at Tamworth afforded all their assistance. The royalists were accused by the people of this town of cruelty in killing a man in cold blood, whom they had captured in a sally from their fortifications.² The siege was continued with great violence, until the 10th of July. Colonel Bagot was very severely wounded; and the royalists were driven to the necessity of capitulating. They made honourable terms with their victors; and were allowed to march out unmolested. The cause of the king was now very nearly extinct throughout the whole land. The fatal battle of Naseby destroyed the few hopes, which lingered amongst his adherents. Shortly afterwards, as a last refuge, the sovereign placed himself in the hands of the Scots. These mercenary men knew not how to show mercy to the confiding monarch; but basely betrayed and sold him to the parliament. The scaffold was soon seen standing by the gloomy prison walls. Then the axe was observed to gleam momentarily in the air; and, in the next instant, Charles had ended his eventful and unfortunate reign. Monarchy was completely abolished; and democracy established.³

On the reduction of Lichfield, Tamworth had no longer any adversaries to contend with; and it soon assumed externally its usual peaceable condition. The inhabitants, so far as we can judge from the records of

¹ Hamper's Life of Dugdale.

² Parish Register.

³ Clarendon's History of the Rebellion.

the times, appear to have been deeply imbued with the puritanical spirit of the age; and to have heartily supported the cause to which they were inclined. And it was a long time before the feeling completely died away.

Oliver Cromwell was chosen as the ruler of the realms; and he assumed the title of Protector. Remembering how greatly castles and fortified places had impeded his progress in the wars, and harassed him in the execution of his enterprises, he ordered the principal of them to be dismantled or destroyed, in such a manner that they could not again be rendered capable of defence. Amongst them, the one at Tamworth was included.¹

During the period of the Commonwealth, a very neat local token of Tamworth was struck, apparently under the direction of the corporation. It is of an octangular shape. On the obverse, it bears the inscription, * TAMWORTH . CHAMBERLAINS; and in the field,

THEIR
HALFE
PENNY.

On the reverse, is inscribed, * FOR CHANGE AND CHARITY; and in the centre is placed a fleur-de-liz,—the ancient arms of the town.

The political career of Cromwell, whatever may be thought of his private life, or of the means by which he attained power, was one characterized by very great ability and general success. An encroachment upon the representative powers of the people had first caused the out-break of the war. He, therefore, endeavoured to equalize the system, and to give to the nation the

¹ Shaw's Staffordshire.

show, at least, of political freedom. For this purpose, he bestowed the right of returning members to some of the larger places, which had not previously enjoyed it. At the same time, he deprived many of the smaller boroughs of the power. Amongst the latter, he included Tamworth. Consequently, from this town were not sent any members in 1654, 1656, and 1658.¹

Weary of the confusion, which had so long predominated, and convinced, by dearly-bought experience, that in reality a democracy was as absolute as the ancient system of government, the majority of the people soon desired the restoration of monarchy. The accession of Charles II. to regal power, in 1660, was hailed with the greatest pleasure. As in the natural kingdom, long and protracted exertion is followed by a period of deep repose, so in political life, great commotions are succeeded by a stillness more or less profound. Charles was soon enabled to establish an external tranquillity throughout the kingdom. But yet the calm which now ensued was not wholly undisturbed; for the occasional manifestations of an unquiet spirit, indicated the existence of some horrid image; which still haunted, like a fearful dream, the public mind. Although the church of England had been re-established by law, as it was in the days of Elizabeth, the genius of puritanism long existed in the nation; and proved a source of constant irritation. In other matters, all was peaceable. Soon a monarchy was restored nearly as absolute as that, for the suppression of which the whole war had been commenced, and torrents of blood shed. Thus prone is the human mind to run to the opposite extreme; after having been forced, in one direction, beyond the bounds of moderation and reason.

¹ Merewether and Stephens.

The long parliament, to which latterly the appellation of "rump" was given, was first called together in 1640. It was abruptly broken up by Cromwell; but after his death, it again met. Charles II. was re-called by an assemblage succeeding it. This was soon dispersed; and another parliament was summoned; which met in November, 1660; when Tamworth resumed its political privileges, by returning members to it. But it only continued for a few weeks. A new one was assembled on the 8th of May, in the next year; which from the length of its duration, was styled the second long parliament. Amongst the most remarkable of its early acts, was one for the well-governing of municipal corporations. It was required that all persons, who should hold any civil office, or become a member of a corporate body, should take the oaths of allegiance and supremacy, abjure the republican solemn league and covenant, and assent to the doctrine of passive obedience. It was soon found advisable to grant to numerous cities and boroughs, the privileges which they had previously enjoyed. Tamworth received fresh letters patent, dated on the 17th of February, 1663.¹

By the charter of Charles, no new privileges were conferred upon the inhabitants of the town. It merely contained a renewal of those given by Elizabeth, in 1560 and 1588. But such alterations were made in the oaths prescribed, as the recent enactment required; and in the names of the officers, as the lapse of time demanded. The only new provision was one empowering the corporation to inflict a fine, not amounting to more than 20*l.*, on any member of their body, who, being duly elected bailiff, should refuse to act in the

¹ Charter, 16 Car. II.:—Corporation Records.

office, or to take the necessary oaths. The twenty-four capital burgesses were named; and also the bailiffs.¹ James Compton, earl of Northampton, was mentioned as high-steward;² and John Allen, as town-clerk.³ The recorder was not nominated:⁴ nor was there any provision for the continuance of the chamberlains, although their election continued without interruption.⁵

About this time, there were struck several local tokens of tradesmen in Tamworth. So many as four have come under our observation. None of them are remarkable for very great neatness of workmanship; but they are not inferior to the generality of similar pieces issued in Charles's reign. The description of them is as follows:—

1. Obverse:—A fleur-de-liz; with the inscription round, *EDWARD . WHITE. Reverse:—* IN * TAMWORTH; and in the field,
E W.
1663.
2. Obverse:—On a shield in the centre, the demi-figure of a king, crowned, and in the robes of state; around, the inscription *WILLIAM*MICHELL. Reverse:
* OF * TAMWORTH * 1666; and in the field,

HIS
HALFE
PENNY
* * *

3. Obverse:— .WILLIAM AND ROBERT CAW"; and in the field, the figure of a chandler in the act of dipping. Reverse:— *.OF TAMWORTH. 1668.; and in the centre,

* * *
THEIR
HALFE
PENY
•

1 See Appendix:—Note 12.

3 See Appendix:—Note 14.

2 See Appendix:—Note 13.

4 See Appendix:—Note 15.

5 See Appendix:—Note 16.

4. In the fourth, the inscription reads very irregularly.

Obverse:— *ROBERT GREENE* OF; and in the centre,

HIS
HALFE
PENNY
1671.

Reverse:— *TAMWORTH* MERCER; and in the middle, a demi-figure of a king, placed on a shield.

During the continuance of the second long parliament, a writ was issued for the election of a member for this town, in place of John, lord Clifford. A contest ensued between Charles, lord Clifford, and John Ferrers, esq. The former, having the majority of the votes of the members of the corporate body, was declared to have been returned. Against this proceeding Mr. Ferrers petitioned: and the right of election was brought before a committee of the House of Commons. The question raised was, whether the power belonged exclusively to the bailiffs and capital burgesses, or to the whole of the populacy and burgesses of the town. A report was made to the House on the 26th of May, 1670, by Mr. sergeant Charleton. The decision of the committee, that the right belonged wholly to the bailiffs and corporate body, was confirmed by a majority of six, the number of the votes being 90 to 84. Lord Clifford was, therefore, declared duly elected.¹ The evidence, upon which the decision was made, is not given; but it is certain that, in the reign of Elizabeth the right was occasionally exercised by the bailiffs and capital burgesses alone. The same course was adopted just before the rebellion; for against it, eighty-seven of the inhabitants petitioned, but without avail.²

¹ M.S., copied from the Journals of the Commons.

² See Appendix:—Note 17.

Amongst the numerous singular acts of Charles's reign, his proceedings to bring more fully into the power of the crown the municipal corporations of the kingdom, by issuing writs of quo-warranto against the principal of them, was not the least worthy of notice. Without regarding the justice or injustice of the design which he had in view, it was a very irregular course. For, by demanding by what right these bodies acted, he seemed to question the power of the crown to grant privileges by letters-patent. Yet, at the same time, he was endeavouring to increase the royal prerogatives. James II., when he came to the throne, not only adopted the same practice, but carried it out in its greatest degree. Indeed, his reign was very sadly marked by proceedings of the most arbitrary nature.

Towards the close of the year 1687, most of the cities and boroughs of the realm were served with writs of quo-warranto. Tamworth was included amongst them. The bailiffs and capital burgesses held a meeting on the 7th of March, to debate upon the measures which it would be most advisable to adopt. Acting under the advice of lord viscount Weymouth, the high-steward, and sir Andrew Hackett, the recorder, they resolved, by twelve to five votes, to appear, by their attorney, in order to appeal against the surrender. But, on the 9th of April following, 1688, the subject was again brought forward, and taken into deeper consideration. With the consent of the recorder, it was resolved, without a dissentient voice, that the charter, and with it all privileges, should be given up to his majesty's pleasure, before the first day of the ensuing term. This was to be done by the high-steward; or, if he should not be able, by the recorder; or,

in his unavoidable absence, by the bailiffs, Samuel Buckland and William Harding. An instrument was accordingly drawn up, by which all authority and liberties were returned into the king's hands. But a prayer was subjoined that a re-grant might be made of such powers and privileges, as his majesty should think best fitted for the regulation of the town.¹ On the 21st of May, it was ordered that William Harding should give up the charter. He accordingly carried it to London; and it was delivered to Mr. Brent, who had been authorized by James to receive it.

The old corporation still exercised its powers, until the king's will might be determined as to the mode in which the town should be regulated. On the day of the annual election of the bailiffs, Buckland and Harding were requested to continue their office, for the ensuing year. But they declined; and William Wilcox and Francis Wright were then chosen. A few days afterwards, the town-clerk brought down a new charter. By it, the government of the town was vested in a mayor and a body of twelve aldermen. Two additional annual fairs were granted; and many other important advantages conferred upon the inhabitants. The whole expenses attendant upon its procurement, amounted to 100*l*. Morgan Powell, the town-clerk, was nominated as the first mayor; and, on the 10th of August, he took the oath, before Matthew Floyer, esq., one of the justices of peace for Staffordshire, to perform his duties with fidelity, until the ensuing first of August, when a new officer should be elected. The aldermen were Walter Ashmore, William Ashley, Thomas Roade, William Wilcox, Francis Wright, John Vaughton, George

¹ See Appendix :—Note 18.

Wright, Thomas Wagstaffe, Robert Green, Jonathan Symonds, Francis Wood, jun., and Edward Symonds. The majority of them had been members of the late corporate body.

The new government endured only for a very brief space of time. James became so involved in difficulties, increased by a threatened invasion of the Dutch, that he was obliged to retract in many of his arbitrary acts. On the 17th of October, he issued a proclamation declaring that all forfeited charters, whereupon judgment had not been entered, should be restored to the condition in which they were in 1679. The old corporation of this town consequently resumed its powers and liberties: and Harding and Buckland, being bailiffs at the time of its dissolution, were then induced to resume the office for the ensuing year. Wilcox and Wright were consequently displaced.¹

But James had already proceeded too far to make any concessions of avail. He had forfeited for ever the favour and confidence of his subjects. Before the termination of the year, he was compelled to abdicate the throne, and reluctantly to pass into exile. His fall was rendered doubly severe by the circumstance of his rivals being his own daughter Mary, and her husband. She could with apathy aid in the ruin of her parent, and with total indifference enjoy his state, who was now an outcast, and dependant upon the bounty of strangers for his support.

At the general election, in 1698, a contest ensued at Tamworth between sir Henry Gough and John Chetwynd, esq. The latter was returned: but against him a petition was presented by his opponent. The right

¹ Orders of Common Halls:—Corporation Records.

of election again came before a committee of the House of Commons. The question raised was whether non-resident freeholders had a right to vote, as well as those who paid scot and lot. Sir Roland Gwynn, on the 17th of March, reported the proceedings of the committee.

The council of the petitioner maintained that both had an equal right. Several witnesses were called, who asserted that they, as non-resident freeholders, had been admitted to the privilege. Only one had been objected to, and this by John Allen, the town-clerk; but the vote was allowed to pass.

Upon the other hand, the council for the sitting member produced the verdict of 1670 in his favour. Witnesses were also brought forward, who gave evidence concerning several elections from the year 1661. They said that the right was vested in the bailiffs and capital burgesses, and the scotters and lotters; and that the out-freeholders did not pretend to the power until 1679. At that time, lord Weymouth, then sir Thomas Thynne, presented himself as a candidate. Morgan Powell, his steward, was then a bailiff; and admitted to poll all who came, and amongst others the out-freeholders. They had continued to vote afterwards; but they were never regarded as properly possessing the right. And for this reason, at the same election, Daniel Jordan, the other bailiff, refused to sign the poll.

Notwithstanding the clear evidence which was produced, that the introduction of the freeholders was a recent and intrusive act, it was resolved by the committee that the right of election of burgesses to serve in parliament for the borough of Tamworth, lay in

the inhabitants paying scot and lot, and in those persons who had freeholds within the borough, whether they were resident there or not.¹ This, according to the observation of Merewether and Stephens, was one of the earliest instances of the introduction of non-residents, in defiance of the clear and express words of the statute, enacted in the reign of Henry V.² In consequence of this decision, the returned member was unseated.

But the verdict, of so opposite a character to that given in the reign of Charles II., was reversed after the election in 1722. At this time, the petitioner asserted that Tamworth was a borough by prescription; and that the right lay in the inhabitant householders paying scot and lot. He adduced nearly the same evidence as had been brought forward nearly twenty-four years previously. The sitting member claimed the right for the non-resident freeholders; and contended that the decision of 1698 could not be altered. But the verdict of the committee was against him. Thus, after the endeavour upon one side to confine the right of voting to the small select corporate body, and on the other side to extend it to non-residents, it was constitutionally defined that to be a burgess of Tamworth it was necessary to be an inhabitant householder, paying scot and lot.³

Questions concerning this matter were again raised after the contests in 1741 and 1818. On the former occasion, it was established that certificate men had not any right; and on the latter occasion, that it was not necessary to pay church rates as well as those for the poor.⁴

¹ M. S., copied from the Journals of the Commons.

² History of Boroughs and Municipal corporations.

³ Merewether and Stephens.

⁴ *Ib.*

For a very considerable time after the termination of the seventeenth century, the general history of Tamworth presents very little worthy of record. Even during the stormy epoch, when Charles Edward Stuart penetrated into England so far as Derby, in his attempt to gain the throne of his ancestors, no commotion was produced here, beyond the mere excitement, which must always be experienced, in every place, upon the eve of, or during, a great national revolution. Undoubtedly had the Pretender succeeded in his schemes, the town would have flourished in its wonted peaceable condition, as it did under the sway of the regnant house of Brunswick.

But although Tamworth remained thus quiet, it must not be concluded that it was declining, or even remaining stationary, in prosperity. On the contrary, it is evident that the town was now, with a quiet but accelerating speed, progressing in a manner which was soon destined to elevate its condition, and improve its general aspect. The erection of the greater part of the public edifices is referred to this period. The re-building of the Free Grammar School was succeeded by that of the Town-hall. The Almshouses were founded and endowed; and, some years subsequently, an adequate Workhouse was added. The Church and Castle each underwent great alterations and repairs. The same also occurred with regard to the Bridges; and one, at length, was wholly rebuilt. Many of the streets, previously unfinished, were completed; and all were very considerably improved. Most of the ancient half-timbered and small houses rapidly disappeared to give place to others of a more modern character, and larger size. In short, during the early part of the eighteenth

century, we may date the commencement of those active improvements, which are now taking place within the town.

The progress in the condition of Tamworth naturally resulted from an influx of wealth, and an increase in the resources of the inhabitants. Several important and lucrative trades sprang up in the town. But the greatest impulse which was given to the place, was consequent upon the establishment, about the years 1788-9, of the extensive cotton manufactures of Mr., afterwards sir Robert, Peel. He introduced them into this town and the neighbourhood, particularly about Fazeley, partly on account of the eminent local advantages of this district, and partly because of an extensive strike amongst the workmen in Lancashire. The Castle and Castle-mill were taken for the purpose; and buildings erected in Lady-meadow.¹ A very great influx of working people took place. The inhabitants of Tamworth had now just cause to lament the opposition which they had manifested to the passage of a canal close by the town. It was at first contemplated to have carried a line from Fradley, near Lichfield, to Coventry, by way of Tamworth. But the people here dreaded so great an innovation on their antiquated ideas; and it was finally carried at a distance, by Fazeley. The production of a great traffic in this small village, almost simultaneously from the canal and Mr. Peel's works, caused it soon to assume the aspect of a small town. So great was its increase that it became a very common belief that, in a short time, it would assume a superiority over Tamworth in every way. But the subsequent decline, in a great measure, of the

¹ Parish Register.

cotton manufactures, withdrew the chief cause of its prosperity, although the traffic arising from the canal has ever since been a great support.

Tamworth became a place noted throughout the country for the extreme gaiety of its company. It also obtained celebrity for its excellent fare—so essential to the comfort and happiness of Englishmen,—particularly for its mutton-pies and ale. A great addition was made to the liveliness of the town, by the erection of a large and commodious theatre. Here some of the brightest stars of the stage, and amongst them Mrs. Siddons, did not think it unworthy of their greatness to appear.

Besides Mrs. Siddons, we may enumerate as having graced, by their appearance, the stage at Tamworth, Miss Farren, afterwards the countess of Derby; Miss Harriet Mellon, who eventually became the duchess of St. Albans; and, we believe, Miss Foote. Miss Mellon, during her stay in the town, had apartments in Market-street, at a house close by the Castle-inn.

Before the erection of a theatre, the Town-hall was occupied as a play-house; and also a large and commodious barn nearly at the bottom of Lichfield-street.

But, at the close of the century, Tamworth participated in the gloomy feeling, which then overspread the nation. The storm, that had long been gathering over Europe, and given only few but unequivocal indications of its approaching fierceness, now burst forth with terrific violence. Its course was appalling and irresistible. Unhappy France, where had been fostered the demon of infidelity, was the scene of its greatest devastations. The altar and the throne were cast down; and, for a time, the spirit of evil and desolation reigned triumphant. Soon it spread on every side, and involved the

continent in a state of confusion and terror. England escaped, however, chiefly on account of its favoured isolated position. But its rulers, too, stood aghast, and trembled lest it should partake in the common disaster. Threats of invasion, and dread of a civil insurrection alarmed the court. Great, indeed, must have been the panic which led to the conversion of the country into one vast military camp. Yet such was the fact. In every town and place, associations were organized for the purpose of preventing the occurrence of a revolution, either by the machinations of secret enemies at home or open ones abroad, for the support of the king and constitution, and for the protection of private property. In the spring of 1798, the gentlemen of Tamworth formed a voluntary armed association, supported at their own expense, and by free contributions: and to which the members for the borough very liberally afforded their aid. It consisted of a troop of cavalry, numbering nearly forty men, commanded by T. B. Paget, esq., of Bole-hall; and two companies of infantry, containing one hundred and twenty men, under the command of Walter Lyon, and Edward Dickenson, esqres.

On the 26th of June, in the following year, there was a grand festival at Tamworth, on the occasion of the presentation of a standard and colours to the association. They were first consecrated at the altar of the Church, by the minister, in the presence of the principal gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood, and of innumerable spectators. They were given by the marchioness Townshend, and the lady of Robert Peel, esq., to the different corps, when assembled on the Staffordshire-moor. But, besides by the organization of these forces, the inhabitants of the town and parish rendered

assistance to the welfare of their country, by contributing to the general subscription which was raised throughout the kingdom in aid of the supplies granted to his majesty for the defence of the nation, in 1798. The sum raised in the town amounted to 363*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*; besides 27*l.* 9*s.* 4½*d.* collected at the Church-doors on the day appointed as a general fast and time of humiliation. In the parish, 155*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* was added.¹ The voluntary armed association, in 1809, was replaced by a local militia. This force was not disbanded until all fears of invasion had vanished, in 1815; after the pride of France had been humiliated, by her fall from the high position which she had dared to assume.

During the period, when private individuals and companies were allowed to circulate tokens, two Tamworth pieces were struck, in 1799. One of them is a penny of John Harding, calico-printer; the other, a half-penny of the rev. Francis Blick, vicar of the parish. They were coined rather as specimens of the art, and for exchange amongst friends, than for circulation. In point of workmanship, they are very excellent, and creditable to those persons engaged upon them.

The dies of Harding's penny-token were by Hancock. Four dozen pieces were struck in copper, and six impressions in silver. Of the latter, two are now in the collection of sir George Chetwynd, bart., of Grendon-hall, Warwickshire. The third, we believe, is in the possession of William Salt, esq., of Russell-square, London. The fourth was purchased at the sale of the rev. F. Blick's collection, on the 1st of July, 1843, by the publisher. The fifth is in the possession of Miss Harding, of Bonehill. And the sixth was in the possession of the late Mr. Shepherd, of Liverpool; now uncertain.

¹ See Appendix :—Note 19.

The idea for the edge of the token was evidently taken from the famous petition-crown executed by Thomas Simon, in the reign of Charles II.



Of the rev. F. Blick's halfpenny, the dies were by Wyon. Six dozen pieces were struck in copper, and half a dozen in silver; so Mr. Blick told sir George Chetwynd, to whom we are indebted for our information.



Those in silver were thus disposed of. 1—Presented by Mr. Blick to the late marquis Townshend, in 1799. 2—Thomas Sharp, esq., of Coventry. It was sold to Mr. Shepherd, of Liverpool; afterwards to Mr. Thomas; and, in March, 1844, it was bought by Mr. Tindall, clerk to Messrs. Southby and Co., on commission, for the right hon. — Butler. 3—Thomas Welsh, esq., of Birmingham; now in the possession of George Barker,

esq., of the same place. 4—William Nickson, of Coventry; now uncertain. 5—In Mr. Blick's private cabinet; it was purchased, in 1843, by sir George Chetwynd. 6—John Harding, esq., of Bonehill; it is now in the collection of sir George Chetwynd, at Grendon-hall.

The fidelity of the engravings has rendered unnecessary a particular description of these tokens.

In 1807, the town underwent very great improvement, by the placing of flags and curb-stones along the pathways of all the principal streets. The expenses were defrayed by a general subscription, aided by liberal donations from the parliamentary representatives, sir Robert Peel, bart., and major-general William Loftus.

Within the course of the present century, several useful institutions have arisen in Tamworth. In 1804, a Permanent library was established, which, in a few years contained upwards of two thousand volumes, circulated amongst subscribers paying an entrance-fee of two guineas and a half, and an annual sum of one guinea. In 1823, a Savings-bank was introduced into the town, and has ever since continued in a flourishing state. And, in 1831, a society was founded for the benefit and encouragement of those, whose occupation or taste led them to adopt horticultural pursuits. The acknowledged want of a literary institution had, several times, been attempted to be supplied; but all endeavours were unsuccessful, until within the last few years; when, by the exertions of sir Robert Peel, one was formed and rendered permanent. Tamworth, however, received a considerable check in its progress, by the failure of two private commercial banks, in the years 1816, and 1819; when many inhabitants sustained

exceedingly heavy losses. It was some time before the town recovered from this blow.

One of the most important occurrences in the recent history of Tamworth, is the alteration produced in the political constitution of the town by the Reform-bill, passed in 1832. The provisions of this statute are too well known to need recapitulation here. It is sufficient to observe that it ultimately removes the right to vote from those who merely pay scot and lot, and invests the power exclusively in persons possessing houses of the value of 10*l.* a year and upwards. At the same time, the limits of the borough were extended to the whole parish around.

In 1835, the "Tamworth Gas-light and Coke Company" was established. Its capital was fixed at 2000*l.*, divided into 200 shares of 10*l.* each. The inhabitants adopted in 1839 the act, 3rd and 4th Will. IV. cap. 90, by which means the town is well lighted. The gas-works were erected at the lower end of Bolebridge-street.

The Municipal Corporations Reform Act, passed in 1835, about the termination of the year, it came into operation. At the time of the enquiries by the parliamentary commissioners, not long before its dissolution, the old governing body possessed an annual income of 147*l.* 19*s.* The rents of four houses within the borough, held from time immemorial, amounted to 91*l.* Another house, purchased twelve years previously, was let for 28*l.*; and a pew in the Church, belonging to it, for 1*l.* 1*s.* Three more pews in the Church brought 6*l.* 6*s.*; and various chief rents and ground-rents, 11*l.* 12*s.* And the piccage, stallage, and other profits of two fairs or market-money averaged 10*l.* The revenues were expended in the repairs of the streets, Market-hall,

and Bridges, and in the payment of a few small salaries for officers. There was a surplus of 100*l.* in the chamberlains' hands. Some privileges of the corporation had been allowed to fall into disuse. The three weeks' court of record had not been held within the memory of any man; nor had the power of holding quarter-sessions been exercised for a considerable period. The reasons assigned were, the want of a sufficient gaol, and the wish to avoid the burden of maintaining such an establishment. It was a general opinion that the expense would outbalance the cost of sending the prisoners to the county-towns. But in no respect did it appear that the corporation had abused its powers, or been guilty of sinister transactions. Such, unfortunately, was not invariably the case throughout England.

By the new bill, the government of the town is now vested in a mayor, four aldermen, and twelve councillors. Under them, are appointed a town-clerk, auditors, assessors, and the minor officers required by the act.¹ But, under its operation, the inhabitants of the town have lost one of their greatest ancient privileges. They are no longer exempt from serving on juries, without the limits of the borough. On the particulars of this statute, it is unnecessary to dwell. Its fundamental principle is that of restoring to the people generally, a voice in their own local government—a liberty, which had been principally intrenched upon, by sovereigns of the house of Tudor.

On the 4th of August, 1839, the Birmingham and Derby Junction Railroad was first entirely opened. It was commenced three years previously, and passes close to the town, on the eastern side.

¹ See Appendix:—Note 20.

In the autumn of 1839, Adelaide, the queen-dowager, widow of William IV., during the period of her visit to the right honourable sir Robert Peel, bart., at his seat, Drayton-manor, favoured Tamworth with her presence. Of this event, the inhabitants of the town had previous notice; and meetings were held and committees organized for the purpose of making preparations to give a fitting reception to her Majesty. Early in the morning of the 12th of November,—the day appointed for the visit,—Tamworth exhibited a very pleasing and animated aspect. Great numbers of strangers resorted hither. Flags were placed upon the steeple of the Church, the tower of the Castle, and upon the Town-hall. With others, the principal inhabitants decorated their houses; many of which were ornamented with flowers and evergreens, and appropriate emblems. The Church-bells sent forth merry and melodious peals, at intervals throughout the day.

About two o'clock a royal salute of twenty-one guns from the Castle, announced the approach of her Majesty. The procession advanced from Drayton-manor through Fazeley. First, there came a number of gentlemen on horseback, four abreast; then a carriage and four, in which were lord Adolphus Fitz-clarence; earl Howe, lord-chamberlain of the Queen-dowager's household; the earl of Denbigh, master of the horse; and Mr. Wood, her chaplain. The next was the royal carriage, drawn by four bay-horses. It contained queen Adelaide, accompanied by lady Clinton, and sir Robert and lady Peel. In the carriage and four which immediately followed, were the countess of Denbigh, Miss Peel, and Miss Mitchell, her Majesty's maid of honour. In the fourth carriage, were lady Jane Peel and family. The

procession was closed by a long line of carriages belonging to different gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood. Sir H. Seymour, the right hon. William Yates Peel, and Edmund Peel, esq., accompanied the royal party. Near the foot of Lady-bridge, at the limits of the town, a large triumphal arch, between thirty and forty feet in height, and twenty feet in span, had been erected. It was made to resemble stone-work, was entwined with wreaths of evergreens, and bore the inscription—WELCOME QUEEN ADELAIDE. On the summit, was placed a decorated crown; and on each side of it was a flag, upon which were emblazoned the royal arms. As the procession passed slowly beneath this arch, loud acclamations arose from the dense throng of spectators; and the band played the great national anthem of "God save the Queen." The royal party proceeded along Market-street, and halted at the Town-hall, where the members of the town-council, in their robes, stood awaiting the arrival of her Majesty. There, the mayor, John Hall, esq.; the ex-mayor, William Parsons, jun., esq.; and the town-clerk, Francis Willington, esq., were severally introduced to the Queen. She was graciously pleased to express to the mayor her pleasure and satisfaction at the handsome reception which she experienced from the inhabitants of Tamworth. The mayor and council, preceded by the horsemen, then accompanied the royal party along George-street and Colehill, to the Church. There the Queen-dowager and her suit alighted, to inspect this noble building. The rev. Francis Blick, with other clergymen, received her majesty at the western entrance, and conducted her through the edifice; which was densely crowded with ladies.

After viewing the Church, the royal party returned to their carriages, and the procession passed along Church-street, and Lichfield-street. Every window was occupied by persons. Another salute was now fired from the guns at the Castle. At the limits of the old borough, an arch had been erected by Mr. Blick, bearing the inscription—WE BID YOU GOD SPEED. Here the horsemen filed off on each side of the road, and the town-council took leave of her Majesty. As the Queen passed on, the horsemen raised a hearty cheer. The royal party returned to Drayton-manor by Hopwas.

On the following day, her Majesty forwarded a letter through earl Howe, to the vicar, expressing the gratification which had been afforded to her on this occasion. The sum of 25*l.* was enclosed, for distribution amongst the poor, during the ensuing winter.¹

But the most renowned occurrence in the history of Tamworth, since the reign of James I., was the visit which her gracious Majesty, queen Victoria, made to the town and neighbourhood, during her progress through the midland counties of England, in the autumn of 1843. The expectation that she would honour the first lord of the treasury with her presence, at Drayton-manor, had, for some weeks previously, caused great excitement here. When the pleasing anticipation was confirmed, and the time made known to the gentlemen of the town, the most energetic measures were taken by them, to welcome their Queen, in a manner due to her exalted rank, as sovereign of the realms. A public meeting was immediately called, on the 21st of November, the mayor presiding, for the purpose of considering and arranging the plans for her reception.

¹ The expenses attendant upon this visit were defrayed by a public subscription. They amounted altogether to about 50*l.*

A subscription to defray the expenses, was commenced in the room; which ultimately amounted to nearly 400*l*. Many gentlemen, more especially sir Robert Peel, made very handsome donations.

In the decorations of the town, very great taste was manifested by those, under the direction of whom the arrangements were conducted. Even the architectural defects in the line of streets, along which her Majesty would pass, were rendered subservient to some good purpose. At the station of the Birmingham and Derby Junction Railroad, where the Queen would alight, a neat pavilion, carpeted with crimson cloth, was erected; and a flight of broad steps carried down the embankment. Throughout nearly the whole length of the road from the station to the town, platforms were erected on each side, for the convenience of spectators. About midway along this line, by the King's Ditch, at the limits of the old borough a large and elegant triumphal arch was erected, in imitation of stone-work. It bore, amidst a profusion of embellishments, and wreaths of evergreens, profiles of the Queen and Prince, and the fleur-de-liz. It was surmounted by a crown, the royal standard, and several flags. A second but much smaller arch was placed between George-street and the Market-place. A third one was situated on the south side of the Town-hall. It bore the legend—*ENGLAND'S HOPE*; and upon it were placed the arms of the town properly emblazoned,—*Erm.*, a fleur-de-liz *Or*. Supporters,—two mermaids *ppr.*, each holding in her hand a palm branch: these are emblematical of the two streams.¹ The fourth and last arch was

¹ The device upon the seal of the town is different. It consists merely of a fleur-de-liz, diapered all over with small flowers: and it bears around the inscription,—*SIO SVROL. DE. TAMWORTH. IN. COMITAT. WARWIC. ET. STAP.* The seal itself, is made of silver; and was presented to the corporation by sir Thomas Thynne, bart., whilst he was high-steward.

placed at the foot of Lady-bridge. It was designed so as to harmonize with the architecture of the Castle, which stood in noble grandeur above the scene. It consisted of two square towers with a large arch stretched between, and bore many ornaments. The decorations of private houses by individual exertions, it would be totally impossible to describe. It suffices to say that every place, which at all commanded a view of her Majesty's progress, was completely covered with flags, garlands of flowers and evergreens, and designs of every kind. The well devised emblem, and the short but appropriate motto, indicated the fervent feeling by which all were actuated, and their deep devotion and attachment to their beloved Queen. All united in the work, and the spirit of party was completely banished from the joyous scene.

On Tuesday, the 28th of November, her Majesty and prince Albert commenced their progress to Drayton-mannor. At five minutes past nine o'clock in the morning, they quitted Windsor-castle, in a travelling carriage and four. They directed their course through Windsor, Eton, Slough, and Uxbridge, to Watford. During this time, they were accompanied by a detachment of the first regiment of life-guards. The suite in attendance, who occupied two carriages, consisted of lady Portman, lady in waiting; the hon. Miss Liddell, and the hon. Amelia Murray, maids of honour; the earl of Jersey, master of the horse; the marquis of Ormonde, lord in waiting; the hon. George Edward Anson, treasurer to prince Albert; major-general William Wemmys, equerry in waiting; and colonel Bouverie, equerry in waiting to his royal Highness. At the Watford-station, on the London and Birmingham Railroad,

her Majesty was received by many of the company of that line. There a delay of five-and-twenty minutes took place, whilst the carriages were being transferred to the trucks. From thence, at twenty minutes past eleven o'clock, the royal party proceeded by special train, towards Hampton-in-Arden. A splendid carriage had been provided for the Queen and Prince. The day, which at first had appeared very gloomy, and threatened to terminate in rain, had cleared up; and soon the sun burst forth in all its wonted splendour. It does not come within the limits of our work to detail the reception, with which the Queen met on her journey to Hampton. She arrived there, after a short delay at Wolverton, in order to partake of refreshments, at twenty minutes past two o'clock in the afternoon. At that place, the directors of the Birmingham and Derby Railroad waited on her Majesty, and accompanied her along their line to Tamworth.

Before the morning's dawn, on this day, immense numbers of persons flocked into Tamworth. They came from every part of the country, for twenty miles around. There was soon a scene of bustle and commotion, which the town can scarcely ever have previously witnessed, even in the days of its greatest celebrity. About noon, the streets through which her Majesty would direct her course, became intensely thronged. Every accessible place in the houses and buildings was occupied. As the appointed hour approached, the centre of the streets was with difficulty cleared by the Yeomanry and Staffordshire police, to permit a free passage. At twenty minutes to three o'clock, the right hon. sir Robert Peel arrived at the station, to await his illustrious visitors. He was accompanied by his

son Mr. Robert Peel, the duke of Buccleuch, earl Talbot, and lord Ingestre. The pavilion was occupied by numerous other gentlemen. About the same time, the corporation and clergy took their station on a platform that was erected for them. It stood upon the right hand side of the first triumphal arch, within the limits of the municipal borough, and was covered with crimson cloth. On the summit of this arch, by the standard, a trumpeter of the Staffordshire Yeomanry was placed, to announce the moment when the royal train should come into sight. All were now in a state of the most eager expectation. Over the vast multitude, an unusual silence reigned, indicating the intense feeling which suspense created.

After the lapse of a short time, the shrill trumpet's voice echoed over the town. Immediately the royal standard, presented for the occasion by lord Charles Townshend, was unfurled on the turret of the Castle, a salute was fired from the cannon on the green beneath, and the Church-bells commenced their merriest peal. At a quarter to three o'clock, the train stopped at the station, the journey of fifteen miles from Hampton having been performed in twenty minutes. On alighting, her Majesty was received by sir Robert Peel to whom she immediately bowed and presented her hand. The right honourable baronet conducted her to the carriage, which was awaiting below; and the party then left the station-yard.

The road to the town was kept clear by the Staffordshire Royal Yeomanry-cavalry. Three troops of them, under the direction of colonel Monkton the commander, major Peel, and major Majendie, served as an escort. Sir Robert Peel, the duke of Buccleuch, and

the other noblemen followed upon horseback. Thomas Shawe Manley, esq., high-sheriff of Staffordshire, and many other gentlemen, also accompanied the royal party. Immediately that her Majesty and the Prince appeared into the public road, they were welcomed with the most enthusiastic shouts, which arose on every side. For the time, every other feeling seemed to be absorbed in that of unbounded loyalty. The Queen expressed her pleasure by continually bowing to the multitudes. Amidst re-iterated cheering, and the waving of hats and handkerchiefs, her Majesty proceeded slowly along the road. On arriving at the arch, the royal carriage was drawn up close to the platform, where the corporation and clergy were stationed. Thomas Bramall, esq., the mayor, now advanced, and, in a few words, presented the mace to the Queen, surrendering with it his local authority, at the presence of the fountain-head of government. The Queen laid her hand on the emblem of office, but was pleased immediately to return it, with the gracious compliment that it could not be in better hands. The royal party proceeded through the town. They directed their course through George-street; the Market-place, on the south side of the Town-hall; Market-street; and Lady-bridge-bank. The Queen and Prince rode with the carriage open, so that they were well seen by the crowds. As they passed along, the acclamations of the multitude increased; and a scene of the most animated description presented itself. A tremendous rush took place, in order to gain a second sight of the Queen and Prince as they quitted the town. At the foot of Lady-bridge, the corporation, clergy, and gentlemen of the town, took leave of the august travellers. Another salute was now fired from the cannon on the

Castle-green. Quickening their speed, the royal party directed their course by Bonehill and the Watling-street; and, at a little more than half past three o'clock, they arrived at Drayton-manor, where royal standards were immediately raised on the tower, and other parts of the mansion.

Her Majesty on alighting was received by lady Peel, and numerous distinguished ladies. With the Prince she retired to the apartments reserved for their accommodation, to partake of refreshments after their long journey. The whole of the south front of sir Robert Peel's noble mansion was appropriated to the use of his royal guests. The suite of apartments consisted of a breakfast-room, drawing-room, state-bed-room, and four other connecting rooms. All, especially the drawing-room, were fitted up in a very chaste and tasteful manner. A congruity between the ornaments and the Elizabethan architecture of the building, was observed. The state-bed was very fine; the hangings were of chintz lined throughout with pink silk.

At six o'clock, the noble circle at the Manor was increased by the arrival of his grace the duke of Wellington, who came direct from London by the railroads. Archdeacon Lonsdale, the bishop elect of Lichfield, also travelled to Tamworth by the same train: he took up his abode at the house of Edmund Peel, esq., at Bonehill.

Shortly after seven o'clock, the bishop elect of Lichfield; Thomas Shawe Manley, esq., high-sheriff of Staffordshire; Thomas Bramall, esq., mayor of Tamworth; and a deputation from Lichfield, arrived at Drayton. When her Majesty and his royal Highness entered the library, at half past seven, these gentlemen presented loyal addresses to them. The following were delivered from the borough of Tamworth.

“To the Queen’s Most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address of the Mayor, Magistrates, Aldermen, Councillors, and Burgesses of the Borough of Tamworth.”

“Most Gracious Sovereign,—We, your Majesty’s most faithful and dutiful subjects, the Mayor, Magistrates, Aldermen, Councillors, and Burgesses of the ancient Borough of Tamworth,—once the favoured seat of Royalty,—beg your Majesty’s gracious permission to offer the sincere expression of devoted loyalty and attachment, which we at all times feel towards your Majesty; and of the sentiments of delight excited in our hearts by your Majesty’s august presence amongst us.

May the Supreme Disposer of all events, be pleased to shed upon your Majesty and your Royal Consort a continuance and increase of every blessing. May He protect your Majesty from all harm, and long preserve your Majesty in health, for the wealth and happiness of these realms.”

“To His Royal Highness Prince Albert.”

“May it please your Royal Highness,—We, the Mayor, Magistrates, Aldermen, Councillors, and Burgesses of the Borough of Tamworth, deeply impressed with the many and exalted virtues which adorn the character of your Royal Highness, approach with sentiments of the highest respect, to give expression to the unfeigned regard and admiration, we so strongly and justly entertain towards your Royal Highness.

We cannot but feel proud of the distinction conferred upon our ancient and ever loyal Borough of Tamworth, by the visit with which your Royal Highness has been pleased to honour us.

That your Royal Highness may be preserved through

a long life of health, prosperity, and happiness, is the prayer of Her Majesty's most dutiful and ever loyal subjects."

The Bishop elect, then presented loyal and affectionate addresses from the rural dean and clergy of Tamworth and its neighbourhood.

After this ceremony had been concluded, the Queen was conducted by sir Robert Peel, through the picture-gallery into the dining-room. Prince Albert and lady Peel, the duke of Rutland and the duchess of Buccleuch, with the rest, followed. A very sumptuous dinner was provided; and covers were laid for twenty-one persons. The Prince occupied the seat next the Queen, and the host and hostess were placed on the right and left hands. The guests besides were, the duke of Wellington; the duke and duchess of Buccleuch; the duke of Rutland; the earl of Jersey; earl Talbot, lord-lieutenant of the county of Stafford; the bishop elect of Lichfield; the hon. Miss Paget; lady Portman; the hon. George Edward Anson; Robert Peel, esq., eldest son of the premier; major-general Wemmys; colonel Bouverie; William Stratford Dugdale, esq., M. P. for North Warwickshire; Thomas Shawe Manley, esq.; Thomas Bramall, esq.; and lieutenant-colonel Monkton. The high-sheriff occupied the top of the table, and the mayor of Tamworth sat opposite to him. The dinner lasted for an hour and a half. At its conclusion, the right honourable Baronet proposed the health of her Majesty, which was duly drunk. Immediately afterwards, the Queen, with lady Peel and rest of the ladies, withdrew into the library. There her Majesty spent some time in viewing many of the finest efforts of art in painting and sculpture.

A little before eleven o'clock, the Queen and Prince retired to their private apartments.

On Wednesday morning, the 29th of November, the Queen and Prince, after breakfasting together, at eight o'clock, in their private room, walked, for a short time, upon the terraces. At half past nine o'clock, prince Albert, attended by sir Robert Peel, the duke of Buccleuch, major-general Wemmys, colonel Bouverie, and the hon. George Edward Anson, visited Tamworth Church. The rev. Robert C. Savage, vicar, with the curate and churchwardens, was in attendance there. After his Royal Highness had inspected this venerable edifice, he went to the railroad-station, and proceeded, by special train, to Birmingham, to view some of the principal manufactories and public edifices of that town.

But sir Robert Peel and the duke of Buccleuch returned to Drayton-mauor.

At eleven o'clock, her Majesty, with lady and Miss Peel, the duchess of Buccleuch, lady Portman, and the hon. Miss Paget, walked for half an hour, along the terraces, on the south and west sides of the mansion. They then visited the flower-gardens, farm-yard, and dairy; and afterwards went over the hothouses and kitchen-gardens.

A little after two o'clock, sir Robert Peel rode down to the Tamworth-station, to receive many other illustrious visitors. Adelaide, the Queen-dowager, with prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, earl Howe, and the countess of Brownlow, arrived by special train, and were escorted to Drayton by the Staffordshire Yeomanry.

After a very pleasing reception at Birmingham, his royal Highness returned to Drayton about half past four o'clock. To the royal circle at dinner, besides the

Queen-dowager and her attendants, there were added the earl of Warwick, lord lieutenant of the county of Warwick; viscount Ingestre; the hon. and rev. Henry Edward John Howard, dean of Lichfield; and Charles Newdegate Newdegate, esq., M. P. for North Warwickshire.

This day, at Tamworth, was spent in merriment and festivity. A dinner was provided in the Town-hall, at which the mayor, corporation, and principal gentlemen of the neighbourhood, were present.

On Thursday morning, the Queen, having breakfasted, at half past seven o'clock, walked out upon the terraces, with his royal Highness. The Prince, afterwards, accompanied by sir Robert Peel, the duke of Buccleuch, the earl of Jersey, and the hon. G. E. Anson, went out to sport. He first went in a boat on the water, when he brought down two wild ducks; but he soon resorted to the easier and more profitable plan of shooting in the preserves. There he killed sixty pheasants, twenty-five hares, eight rabbits, and a woodcock. About two hundred head of game were killed by the whole party. After two hours and a half of sport, the Prince returned to the Manor, and partook of luncheon. At two o'clock, the royal visitors proceeded in closed carriages to Lichfield, in order principally to view its beautiful cathedral.

By five o'clock, the party had again arrived at Drayton. After dinner, there was a select reception in the picture-gallery, when many gentlemen and ladies were severally presented to her Majesty, and spent the remainder of the evening at the mansion. Those who were present at this time besides the Queen and Prince Albert, were, Adelaide, the Queen-dowager; Edward, prince of Saxe-Weimar; Arthur Wellesley, duke of

Wellington; Douglas Scott, duke of Buccleuch; Charlotte Ann Scott, duchess of Buccleuch; John Henry Manners, duke of Rutland; Heneage Finch, earl of Aylesford; John, earl Brownlow; Emma Sophia, countess of Brownlow; William Legge, earl of Darmouth; Richard William Penn Curzon, earl Howe; George Villiers, earl of Jersey; lady Portman; the right hon. sir Robert Peel; Julia, lady Peel; Robert Peel, esq.; Miss Eliza Peel; the hon. George Edward Anson; the hon. colonel Fulke Greville Howard; the hon. Henrietta Elizabeth Howard; major-general William Wemmys; lieut.-colonel Everard William Bouverie; captain Edward Henry à Court, R. N., M. P. for Tamworth; William Stratford Dugdale, esq., M. P.; Harriett Ella Dugdale; lady Jane Peel; the dean of Lichfield; Mrs. Howard; J. D. Watts Russell, esq., M. P. for North Staffordshire; capt. Charles Hause Jay, R. N.; the rev. Robert C. Savage, vicar of Tamworth; the rev. W. M. Lally, L.L.D., rector of Drayton-Basset; the rev. Cyprian Thompson, incumbent of Fazeley; Thomas George Lomax, esq., mayor of Lichfield; and Nathaniel Thorn, esq. At half past eleven o'clock, her Majesty and the Queen-dowager retired into their respective rooms.

During the afternoon, the poor of Tamworth, amounting to upwards of two thousand persons, were feasted. For this purpose, the Castle, Town-hall, and National School-rooms were occupied. There were provided for the occasion, two thousand pounds of beef, six hundred pounds of pudding, and two thousand two hundred and fifty quarts of ale, besides bread and potatoes in proportion. Dinners were also given at Fazeley, Wilnecote, Wigginton, and the other hamlets in the parish, to the working classes.

On Friday, the 1st of December her Majesty and

his royal Highness concluded their sojourn at Drayton-manor. At twenty minutes past ten, they departed from the hospitable mansion of sir Robert Peel, on their way to Chatsworth, in Derbyshire, the seat of the duke of Devonshire. They were escorted by the Royal Staffordshire Yeomanry, the tenantry of sir Robert Peel, and the officers of the county constabulary force. Sir Robert Peel, himself, and the high-sheriff of Staffordshire, rode immediately in front of the royal carriage. In the Manor-park, the children of the schools at Drayton-Basset and Fazeley were drawn up, to greet the Queen and the Prince: and the whole way was lined with spectators, anxious to obtain a final glance. The royal party proceeded through Fazeley, where a large arch had been erected, and the houses decorated. The streets of Tamworth were again crowded. Appropriate changes had been made in the decorations of the triumphal arches at the two extremities of the town. The one by Lady-bridge bore, on different parts, the mottos **FAREWELL,—TAMWORTH'S LOYALTY AND DEEP DEVOTION GREET YE WELL,—GOD BLESS YE,—and OUR HEARTS GO WITH YE.** Across the other by the King's Ditch, a banner was suspended, on which were inscribed the words, **WE BID YE GOD SPEED.** The Queen and Prince passed along the same way, by which they went through the town on Tuesday. At the last arch, they stopped to take leave of the mayor and corporation, who there awaited them. Her Majesty was then gracious pleased thus to address the municipal authorities. "We thank you most heartily for the gratifying reception We have met with, in your loyal borough: and be assured that We have experienced great satisfaction and delight, from the strong feeling of attachment manifested by you on this occasion." The mayor, in reply, said, "Most gra-

cious Sovereign, allow your Majesty's grateful and ever faithful servant, the mayor, to express to your Majesty, on behalf of the council and inhabitants of Tamworth, how highly we esteem the honour conferred upon us, by the presence of your Majesty and your Majesty's royal Consort amongst us. May God bless and protect your Majesty from all harm, and preserve your Majesty in health, long—very long—to reign over a free, loyal, and happy people." The Queen and Prince bowed in return; and the carriage moved on. At the railroad-station, the full regimental band of the Yeomanry cavalry was in attendance. Her Majesty now took leave of sir Robert, Lady, and Miss Peel, and proceeded to Chatsworth, by a special train.

Immediately after the departure of her Majesty, sir Robert Peel, by command, rode back to the town-council, who waited to welcome him, in order to express to the inhabitants through the mayor, the Queen's satisfaction at the manner in which her Majesty and her royal Consort had been received in Tamworth. Later in the day, the right honourable Baronet made the following official communication to the mayor.

" Drayton Manor, December 1st. 1843.

" Sir,

I avail myself of the earliest opportunity, in obedience to the express command of the Queen signified to me this morning, of conveying to you Her Majesty's entire approbation of all the arrangement made at Tamworth for the reception of her Majesty, on the happy occasion of her Majesty's visit to Drayton Manor.

"Her Majesty expressed herself highly gratified by the combination of perfect order with the enthusiastic demonstrations of loyalty and affectionate attachment to Her Majesty's person.

"I need not say how happy I am to be enabled to make this gracious communication, on the part of the Sovereign, to the chief Municipal Authority of the Borough of Tamworth, and through him to the inhabitants of the Town and adjoining Country.

"I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your faithful Servant.

ROBERT PEEL."

In the course of this day, the Queen-dowager, and prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, after having witnessed the departure of her Majesty, left Drayton-manor, for Gopsall, the seat of earl Howe. The duke of Wellington followed the Queen, the same morning, by railroad.

In Tamworth, during the evening, a grand dinner was given at the Town-hall, by the right honourable sir Robert Peel, to colonel Monkton and the Staffordshire Yeomanry, in return for their constant services and willing exertions during the abode of her Majesty and her royal Consort at Drayton-manor. The festivities in this town, consequent upon the Queen's visit, were not entirely concluded until the January following. For the committee, organized for the purpose of conducting the arrangements of the entertainments given to the working people, liberally resolved to divide the surplus of the money, remaining in their hands, amongst the different schools in the town, to provide feasts for the poor children there. The rest of the money was,

therefore, distributed, according to the number of scholars in each, between the schools, whether attached to the Established Church, to the Roman Catholic Chapel, or to the Meeting-houses of any class of Protestant dissenters in Tamworth.

Long will the recollection of the visit of her gracious Majesty and his royal Highness, her illustrious Consort, be retained at Tamworth. And long, too, we trust, will the intense and glowing feelings of devotion and loyalty, manifested in this town, be remembered by one, whom Providence has called to rule a nation of exalted wealth and strength. Betwixt a sovereign who exercises her power not by terror and oppression, but by gentleness and love, and her people, mutual confidence and attachment must ever exist, strengthened by acts of condescension on her part. Such feelings, and these alone, can the presence of her Majesty at Tamworth have tended to engender and confirm.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

1841



View from the River

STATE OF THE TOWN.

To trace the gradual alterations which have taken place in the condition of Tamworth from an early period to our own times, is a subject, in a local point of view, fraught with very great interest. The consideration of these changes form the object of the present portion of our history. We shall endeavour to portray in detail the ancient state of the town; in a light as clear as the records which we have examined, will permit, and then review the great improvements which have been made, more especially within the last century and a half. At the same time, it is our intention to give other matters, arising out of our subject, which may prove useful to, and worthy of the attention of, the antiquary.

CHURCH STREET.....In the time of Henry VIII., Leland refers to Church-street as the principal one, and describes it as lying, in the general direction of the building of the town, by west and east; the north side, on which is the Church, being in Staffordshire, and the south, in the county of Warwick.¹ In conformity with the usual custom regarding the chief thoroughfare of a town, it was often called High-street. Under that appellation, it is noticed in 1389, and again in 1439.² It has, however, in modern times, been superseded by the completion of

¹ *Itin.*, vol. IV, fol. 189 b.

² Court rolls, 13 E. II., 17 H. VI.

the Market-place; and, although longer, it now ranks inferior to it, both in width, and the general character of the houses.

BUTCHER STREET....By this name was formerly designated the part of Church-street eastward of the Church-yard.¹ The Butchery² lay close by the residence of the dean, in the angle between this street and Gungate.

June 26, 1455:— "Ric'us Dalton de Tamworth, senior, merc', .. reddit in man' Balluoc' .. vnu' Burgag' .. iac' in le Bochery, int' Burgag' Joh'is Coton, .. sen', ex p'te orientali, & semit' eccl'ie, ex p'te occident'; & extend' se a via regia vaq' decanat' de Tamworth: ad opus Ric'i dalton filij mei, & Joh'e vx'is eius, her' & assign' suis imp'p'm."—"Joh'es de Coton de Tamworth, senior, redd' in man' ball' vnu' Burgag' .. iac' in le Bochery int' Burgag' Baldewini Prevyl, ex p'te orient', & Burgag' Ric'i Dalton, sen', ex p'te occident'; & extend' se a via regia vaq' decanat' de Tamworth: .. ad op' Ric'i Dalton de Tamworth, mercere, & Joh'e vx'is eius." ³

The Swine-market appears to have been held here. But, in this supposition, we are only guided by the mention of its existence on the Staffordshire side of the town, in 1388, 1395, 1453, and 1505,⁴ and by the circumstance that the Butchery is now partly used for that purpose. The rest is taken up by buildings, and by a large edifice, once the Theatre, but lately converted into a malt-house. In 1389, at the court-leet and view of frank-pledge, held on the 26th of October, it was ordered, under penalty of 40*d.*, that the inhabitants by the Swine-market should keep the gutter there, near the pavements, clear, so that the path might not be obstructed.⁵

STONE CROSS....At the junction of Church-street, Gungate, and Colehill, stood, until about the reign of Edward VI., the Stone-cross, named so early as 1293.⁶

Court-leet, Warwickshire, held Nov. 29, 1394:— "pres' q'd Joh'es le Sadeler fecit purpresturam .. ap'd le Stonemecros; quia no' est p's' l'o distr'." ⁷ Court, held Sept. 2, 1373:— "Cart' irrotul' in hec v'ba. Sciunt &c. q'd Baldewynus de Freuill, miles, dedit &c. Ad'e Breton de Tamworth, he'd', & assign't' suis, vnu' Burgag' in

¹ Dorothy Ferrers' grant for Mass of requiem. ² Court rolls, 10 H. VI.—1442.

³ Ib., 3 H. VI. ⁴ Ib., 12, 19 R. II.; 31 H. VI.; 31 H. VII.

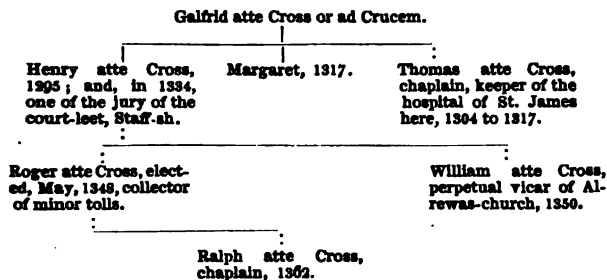
⁵ Ib., 13 R. II.

⁶ Ib., 22 E. I.

⁷ Ib., 22 E. I.

Com' Stafford', p'ut lacet apud le Stonene Cros, int' t'ram p'd'ci Baldewyni, ex vna p'te, & t'ram quond'm Will'i Matthew, ex alt'a; & extend' se in longi'e a via reg' vsq' t'ram Decani Eccl'ie colleg' de Ta'worth. Redd' inde Annuat' p'd'co Baldewyno, h'ed', & assign' suis, vnu' florem Rose, ad f'm Nat' b'e Joh'is Baptiste "1

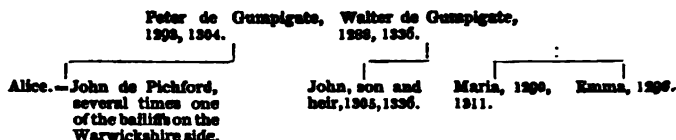
Concerning the Cross, itself, we find nothing recorded, except an order made on the 12th of October, 1516, that butchers should no more sharpen their hatchets or knives upon it, under penalty of 12*d.* to be paid to the common box of the town.³ An ancient family appear to have derived their surname from the proximity of their dwelling to this venerable monument.³



The Three Tuns Inn, at the end of Church-street, is still known as the Stone-cross.

GUNGATE....Passing northwards from the east end of Church-street, is Gungate, or, as it was anciently written, Gumpiyate or Gumpigate. In May, 1369, there was a curious bye-law made, on the Warwickshire part of the town, that no man or woman from Wales should sell ale in this street, under liability of its being forfeited.⁴ At the court-leet, on the 12th of May, 1385, Philip de Bedford was fined 4*d.*, "p' obstup' in Gu'pegate, exp'o'ito Rectore' eccl'ie de Bukkeby."⁵ Gungate afforded a surname to a family in early times; but we have found very little more than the bare names.

¹ Court rolls, 44 E. III. ² Ib., 8 H. VIII.
³ Ib., 25 E. 1.; 6, 11 E. II.; 7, 21, 33, 35 E. III. ⁴ Ib., 42 E. III. ⁵ Ib., 7 R. II.



Besides these, we have the following:— Alan de Gumpgate, 1289, 1293; Henry, 1293, 1316; Ralph, 1304; Thomas, 1304, 1325; William, 1317, 1345; Amice, 1323; and John, 1330, 1350.¹

Gungate is a long, broad, and tolerably regular street. The east side, where Guy's Almshouses are situated, is in Warwickshire; and the west, with the Free Grammar School, in Staffordshire. In the latter part, we find the "Gumppeyerde" mentioned in 1507;² but the position of this place we have not ascertained.

STONY LANE.... The northern part of Gungate, and the road continuing to the limits of the municipal borough, where it branches into three ways, leading to Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Wigginton and Edengale, Elford and Burton-upon-Trent, retained, until very lately, its ancient designation of Stony-lane.³ The appropriateness of the name was indisputable, when the road was proverbially very dirty, irregular, and narrow; and the part of the street consisted of a very few poor scattered and thatched cottages. But, within about the last twenty years, it has been much widened, and very greatly improved. Nearly all the old houses have disappeared; and a neat street has been built. The foot-path, on the western side of the road, beyond the houses, was formed along the summit of a hill, and was defended by some old wooden rails. But, it has been cut down to a level with the carriage-way. During the past year, a stone-

¹ Court rolls, 17 to 34 E. I.; 5 to 19 E. II.; 2 to 19., 43 E. III.

² Ib., 23 H. VII.

³ Perambulation of the borough, 1697.

wall has been erected at the side; and the steep bank bevelled off, in the same manner as, a few years ago, had been done on the eastern side. The road is, therefore, inferior to none in the neighbourhood of Tamworth.

At the northern extremity of this road, on the left hand side of the high-way, close to the spot where a clump of trees stands, was a piece of land called Bayly's grave, which belonged to the corporation until 1704, when it was sold.¹ From what circumstance it obtained this name, we do not know. In the Parish-register, on the 18th of July, 1655, is recorded the burial of "Thomas Bayly, of Tamworth, who hanged himself." It is possible that he was interred at this place, near the meeting of the four roads.

OLD CHURCH LANE....Or, as it is now usually called, New College-lane, ran from Gungate into the Church-yard. But, in 1843, the path within the cemetery was stopped by the Church-wardens. It is short, narrow, consists of small houses on the south side alone, and now forms a "blind" lane.

In 1337, it is called "Chirchelone."² To it extended the Deanery, before that building fell into decay; for, in 1420, we find that John Kingshurst was fined 2*d.*, "p' carte tymbr', in venell' v'c' eccle'am, s'b muro decani."³

NEW CHURCH LANE....This also passes from Gungate to the Church-yard, but northward of the last. It is exceedingly probable that it is Schoolmaster's lane recorded, in 1384, as lying in Staffordshire.

Court held Oct. 31, 1384:— "Joh'as Sadeler de Thamworth ven' & surau' reddit in man' balli'or', ad opus Joh'is de Clifton, capell', & Joh'is Sadeler, cl'ici', he'du & assign' suor', vnu' Curtilag' .. infra Com' Staff', iac' in Skolemayst'one, int' t'r' Baldewyn de Fryuill, milit', ex p'te vna, & t'r' abbatis' de Pollesworth, ex p'te alt'a....."⁴

¹ Corporation records.

² Court rolls, 16 E. III.

³ Ib., 7 H. V.

⁴ Court rolls, 8 E. II.

Where this lane can have been, unless it were here, we are unable to conjecture. It must otherwise have ceased to exist altogether. But the fact of there having been a School-master's lane, is important. It shows that there was some foundation for affording education, perhaps the Grammar School, which had been established for so great a length of time, that, at this early date, it had attained a considerable degree of eminence in the town.

SALTER STREET OR LANE....In Staffordshire, runs parallel with the north part of Gungate, on the west side.

June 11, 1394:— "Walterus de Gumpegate in m'ia, q' iniuste lenauit vnu' muru' in Saltarealone, ad nocumentu' Regie vie." March 17, 1314:— "D'na Erneburga [de Hardreshull], Abbatiassa de Pollesworth, concessit d'nis Henr' de Pollesworth & Joh'ni de Pollesworth, cap'illis, quodd' ten' in le Salt'elone,..." October, 1231:—"Rad's de Wyrcford, Cap'illi's venit in plena cur' & r'edd' in man' balli'or' vna' plac' tr', cu' edific' sup'po'titis,....in Com' Staff', in venella q' dicit' le Salt'alone; int' ten' mag'ri Rog'i de Appelby, & ten' q'nd' Hugon' le Bruyn: Ad op' Simon' de Wyrcford, cl'ici, & he'd' suor'...."¹

Salter's-lane is now merely a cart-road, terminating at some brick-kilns, and bounded on each side by fine and plentiful orchards.

ALDERGATE,....A corruption of the ancient name Ellergate or Elregate,²—passes from Gungate to the west end of Church-street. About forty years ago, it was very narrow, dirty, and irregular. It contained only a few scattered houses in it, and was chiefly limited by gardens and fields. On the east side, towards Gungate, there was a large field, with several pits in it. Aldergate, however, has been rendered tolerably regular, wide, and neat. Although it is not yet entirely filled with houses, it has lost its designation as a lane, and has assumed the higher and more honourable title of a street. The Castle-orchard was situated on the west side of it.

¹ Ib., 22 E. I.: 3 E. II.; 3 E. III.

² Ib., 22 E. I.—1394.

ST. JOHN'S STREET....This is not improbably the Castle-lane¹ leading to gardens, and amongst them to the Castle-orchard. Alexander de Frevile, on the feast of St. Clement the pope, 1322, on the payment of 50*s.* of silver, conceded to Simon de Wycford, clerk, for his life, the garden called Castle-orchard, lying between Ellergate and the Walfurlong, and extending in length from the land of William de Gopshull to the pool of the dean of the Church; with all the herbage and fruit growing there, and the ditch between the garden and the Walfurlong. But on the expressed condition that if, after the lapse of five years, Alexander de Frevile or his heirs, should pay to Simon de Wycford or his assignees, in the collegiate Church of Tamworth, the sum of 50*s.*, the whole property should revert to its former owner.² By the dean's pool, was situated the dean's barn.³ Both these have long disappeared.

St. John's street is very modern, and even now consists only of houses on the south side. It is short, and was built after the erection of the Catholic chapel; to which it leads. The Meeting-house of the Independents stands at the corner of it and Aldergate.

CAT LANE....Passing out of Aldergate towards the Church, and running parallel with Church-street, was once Cat-lane. It was sometimes called Parson's or Priest's lane; but this was not its most usual designation.

March 22, 1361 :— "Will'm's de Hopewas, fr' & heres Rob'l de Hopewas de Tamworth, venit in Cur' & reddit in manus Ball'or' vnam placeam terre cu' edificij sup'positis, in Tamworth, in Com' Stafford' p'nt iacet int' ten' Ric'i le Whelere, ex p'te vna, & ten' quond' Will'i de Ireland, ex alt'a; & extend' se in longitud' a via Regia vsq' le P'sonealone.... Ad opus Will'i de Norton & Oliuer' Clede, capell'or', hered' & assign' suor' imp'pet'm.... Et sup' hoc venit D'us Hugo de Hopewas, canonicus eccl'ie Cathedral' Lichefeld, frat' ip'ius Will'i de Hopewas, & in plena s'sina ip'or' Will'i de Norton & Oliueri Clede, capell' remisit, relaxauit, & om' p' se & heredib' suis imp'pet'm quietu' clamauit totu' Jus suu' & clam,'

1 Court rolls 35 H. VI.,—1457. 2 Indenture, 1322. 3 Court rolls, 30 E. III.

que habuit seu quocummodo habere potuit in p'd'ca placea t're cu' edificijs sup'positis," Court-leet, Nov. 15, 1379:— John Syeracote was fined 4d., because "occup' sole' .. cu' simo, v[is]. in Cattelone & subtus mur' cimiterij." June 12, 1434: "Thom's Archer de Burmyncham, filius & heres Eadithe, nup' vx'is WILL' Archer de Burmyncham, reddidit in man' Ball'or' de Tamworth, ex p'te Com' Stafford' vnu' mesuag' p'ut facit in vico vocat' Chyrchestrete, juxt' le Weynelece, int' ten' quond' Ric' de Bolnhull, ex vna p'te, & ten' quo'dam augnet' Crek, ex alt'a p'te; & extendit se a via Reg' vsq' venella' vocat' Cattelone: ad opus Henrici Lesson, alias vocat' morley de Tamworth, & Joha'e vx'is eius," Oct. 31, 1454:— "Ad vis' franc' venit Thomas Colman & reddit in man' ball' .. vnu' Burgag' & vnu' gardinu', in Com' Staff'; & p'dict' mes' iac' in churchestret, int' ter' Com' Warr', ex vna p'te, & t're quondam Joh'is Sadeler, ex p'te alt'a, & extend' se a regia via vsq' P'sononeslane: p'dict' vero gardinu' in P'sononeslane, int' t'r' quond' Baldewini Frevyll, milit', ex p'te vna, & t'r' Ric' Dalton, ex p'te alt'a, & extend' se a P'sononeslane vsq' ad t'r' quond' p'dict' Baldewini Frevyll: ad opus Joh'is Colman...." And in 1455:— "Joh' Colman, filius Thome Colman,....redd' in man' ball' vnu' Burgagin' cu'gardino adiac': & dict' Burg' iac' in vico voc' Churchestret int' Burg' Comitase de Salopp', ex p'te vna, & ten' Humph' Jacobs, ex p'te alt'a; & extend' a via regia vsq' Cattelone: & p'dict' gardinu' iac' int' gardinu' Ric' Dalton, ex p'te vna, & gardinu' Thome Ferrers, Armig', ex p'te alt'a, & abbutt' se vsq' venellam p'dict': ad opus Joh'is Stanley, armig', & Elizabeth vx'is eius, & hered' int' eos legitime p'creat'....."¹

In 1460, "Pristlone in le Chirchestrete," is recorded.²

Cat-lane was abolished in the reign of Charles II., and the land disposed of, by the corporation, to different persons.³

CARREFOUR....The meeting of the four ways, Church-street, Aldergate, Lichfield-street, and Silver-street, was very anciently called the Carrefour.

June 30, 1295:— "Philipp' Drak h't seisin' in q'dam p'ticla t're cu' edific' .. ex dimissione Simonis, fil' Simonis le Sauuage. Jacent ap'd le Quarfouk de Tameworth, int' t'ra' p'd'ci Simonis, ex vna p'te, & Reg' st'tam, ex alt'a,...."⁴

LICHFIELD STREET....This street continues on the same line with Church-street, to the road leading by the village of Hopwas to Lichfield. It was formerly divided by the bars or barriers,⁵—the outer fortifications of the town,—into two parts. The first was generally called Lichfield-street, and the second Outwall-street. But in time, probably on the disuse and destruction of

1 Court rolls, 35 E. III.; 3 E. II.; 2, 33, 34, H. VI. 2 Ib., 38 H. VI.
3 Corporation records, 1662. 4 Court rolls, 28 E. I. 5 Court rolls, 1336 to 1470.

the barriers, the former name became applied to the whole. At the open space, near the top, once stood the Town-hall; but it was removed at the commencement of last century.

April, 1390:— "Alan' d'cus de Wyginton pet' no'ie h'editat' quodd' ten' in Otewallestrete, de ten' quod' Rob'ti Schethe nup' defuncti." Jan., 1390:— "Joh'es de Colleshull & Alic' vx' eius,....reddiderunt in man' ball'or'... vnu' mesuag' in Lichfeldestrete, iac' iuxta terra' Rad'i Seivestr', & extend' se in lo'gitudine a via Regia vsq' le Walleforlong; q'd quid' mesuag' Will' Matthew quond' tenuit: ad opus Nich'i de Kynchale, p'sone eccl'ie de Drayton-Basset, Will'i de Newton, & Rob'ti de Mapele, capell', her' & assign' suor' " July 9, 1370:— "Sciant .. q'd ego, Joh'es Mathewe de Tamworth dedi .. Ad'e de Wythordleys & Joh'i de Clyfton, capell'is, .. vnu' mesuag' in Comit' Stafford', p'ut iacet in Otewalestrete, & extend' se in long' a via Regia vsq' ad campu' del Walfuriong Et satisfecerunt ball'is p' seissi'a h'end': & eciam concessu' est eisdm Ad'e & Joh'i lib'tatem ville; & fecerunt fidelit' in p'senc' Rog'i Bette, Will'i Keec, tunc ball' i'bm, .. d'ni Henr' Caytewayte, Rector' eccl'ie de Karleton, .. & multor' al', &c."— "Sciant .. q'd nos, Joh'es de Hopewas & Christiana vx' mea, dedimus Oliuero Clede de Tamworth, capell'o. .. vnu' mesuag', .. in Com' Stafford', p'ut iacet in Otewalestrete, " May, 1383:— "Sciant .. q'd nos, Joh'es Bollenhull de Tunstall & Joh'na vx' mea, dedim' Ric'o de Oldynton, fil'o Joh'is de Oldynton .. duo mesuag' que .. quond' fuer' d'ni Baldewyny Frenyle, militis, senioris, p'ut simul jacent in Otewalestrete, int' mesuag' Rog'i de Pype & Amicie, vx'is eius & mes' Joh'is Cokeru, & extendunt .. a via regia vsq' man'm d'ni Thome de Oldynton, Canonici eccl'ie Colediat' de Ta'worth. " May 31, 1470:—Alicia, nup' vx' Thome Bradley, venit coram ball'is, in pura viduetae sua, & sursu' reddidit in manus d'cor' ball'or' duo cotagia simul jacent' .. in vico vocat' lichfeldestrete, alias d'co ex antiquo Otwalstrete, int' t'ram q'odam Rob'ti Dunstall, ex p'te vna, & t'ram modo Joh'is Stanley, milit', ex p'te altra; & extendit se in longitudine ab alta via p'd'ca vsq' ad le Walfuriong: ad opus Ric'i Kelyng de Wigynon & Elizabeth, uxoris sue, "1

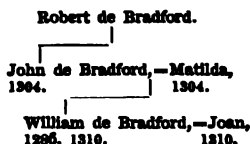
Lichfield-street is the finest one in the town, both in regard to its length and breadth. Lying very nearly parallel to, and at a little distance from, the Tame, the houses on the south side are provided with large and pleasant gardens abutting on the water. The agreeableness of the situation is thereby very greatly enhanced. Yet the street contains only two objects of interest,—the School founded and endowed by the late sir Robert Peel,

and the Moat-house. Within the last few years very great improvements have been made at the lower end, by the rebuilding of a number of houses, and the erection of many more.

BRADFORD STREET.... The lower part of Lichfield-street, by the plot of ground where the horsefair is now usually held, was formerly called Bradford-street. It derived its name from the Broad ford leading to the island or Broad-meadows, over the part of the river known as the Wean-lake.¹

May, 1290:— "Simon le Wyte dat Joh' fil' suo tota' terra' suam in Bradford, cu' septe' acris terre, & t'ciam p'te' de Stockwallemeddo, & t'ciam p'te' vni' acre p'ti in Beckemor, & t'ciam p'te' vni' acre p'ti in Caldefordmeddo: & q' d'cus Simo' no' h't sigillu' p'pum, ideo sigillu' Ric' Dun e' acomod'." Feb. 26, 1317:— "Will's Boch'e, senior, reddit in man' ball'or' medietatem vni' burgagi t're, cum Crofto adiacente, in Bradfordestrete, ad op' WILL'i le Weuere de Tamworth & Isabell' vx'is ei' .." ²

In accordance with the very general custom of early times, a family assumed a cognomen from the Broad ford.³



WYBORNE LANE.... This lane runs from Lichfield-street, nearly at the top, to the river Tame.

Jan. 30, 1317:— "Thom' atte Cross, capell'a, reddit in man' ball'or' vna' placeam t're, cu' edific' sup'posit' iux' Wyburnelone, vna' placeam t're curtillagi ad aquam de Tame iux' Wyburnelone: ad op' Margarete, fil' Agn' vx'is Joh'is le Sauvage." ⁴

PEEL STREET.... This street is very modern; and takes the same direction as Wyborne-lane, farther down Lichfield-street. In it is situated the Baptists' Meeting-house.

MOOR LANE AND LUDGATE LANE.... These are merely

¹ Perambulation, 1697. ² Court rolls, 18 E. 1., 11 E. II.
³ *Ib.*, 14, 23 E. 1.; 3 E. II. ⁴ *Ib.*, 11 E. II.

lanes leading principally amongst fields and gardens. Moor-lane, named in 1470,¹ runs out of Lichfield-street, passes along the edge of the Staffordshire-moor, and joins Ludgate-lane, which continues towards the northern extremity of Gungate, and partly forms the boundary of the old borough.²

SILVER STREET AND LADY BRIDGE BANK.... These were known, in former times, as Ladybridge-street³ and the Holloway.⁴ They pass from the end of Aldergate to Lady-bridge; and lie, on the west side, in the county of Stafford, and on the east side, in that of Warwick.

July 22, 1371:— "Scienc' &c. q'd noe, Will's de Melewych de Tamworth & Alic' vx' mea, dedim' .. Ric'o Wyasse de Lycheefeld .. vnu' messuag', .. in Com' Staff' in vico vocat' Ladybruggestrete, p'ut jacet int' ten' Baldewyni Freuill, milit', ex p'te vna, & ten' Ph'i de Bydeford, & Margaret' vx'is eius ex alt'a; & extend' se ab alto vico vsq' fossat' vocat' le Kengesdych " May 25, 1439:— "Will's Dalton de Tamworth redd' in man' ball' vnu' Cotag' iac' in vico voc' ladibruggestret, int' ten' quond' Johaune Breton, & ten' Ric'i Dalton & Agnet' vx'is eius, & extend' se a via regia vsq' ad venell' voc' Wyburn lane: ad opus Thome Seman " Oct. 18, 1547:— "Me' y' Wyll'm mason & Tomas dege shall make ther yate of there croft on lade brege hyl, & shall not dryue thorowe y' comyn lane, vpon payne of xij*d*. toties q'oties."⁵

Ladybridge-bank was once bounded, on one side, by fields, where the Workhouse now stands, and on the other by the Castle-ditch. It consisted of a narrow road, at the foot of a slight hill; along the brow of which an irregular pathway was cut, with some old wooden rails. It remained in a very delapidated state, until within the present century; when, through the liberality of the late sir Robert Peel, great improvements were made, and a respectable and fitting entrance into the town formed. The road was widened by cutting

1 Court rolls.

2 Perambulation, 1697.

3 Court rolls, 28 E. III.

4 Ib., 36 H. VI.

5 Ib., 44 E. III., 17 H. VI., H. VIII. The earliest English bye-law, which is found in the Court-rolls, is dated on the 22nd May, 1432. It is to the effect that William Ramabed should put his gates in order, under liability of fine. "Ordinatu' e' q' Will's Rameshed put hys gets i' od' gofurnauns the' they haue bene before tyme i, peyne of xij*d*., half to y' comyn box, & d' ball'is."

away part of the hill; and, as it was impossible to avoid an elevated foot-path, it was paved, flagged, and defended by neat and strong iron palisades, the side of the hill being bricked. We read of the barriers both in Ladybridge-street' and Gungate.²

BELL LANE....There remains only one more place to be alluded to, before turning to speak of those parts of the town, situated entirely in Warwickshire. This was called "Venella sub tintinabulo"; and twice only have we seen it named.

Jan. 19, 1392:— "Joh'is de Pichford h't seysinam in q'd' p'te vni' Burgag' cu' p'tin' Jacente in venella s'b tintinnabulo, ex dono & concessione Mag'ri Rob't de Pichford, in plena Cur'." Sept. 4, 1312:— "Joh'es Pycheford, Burgensis de Thamworth,....reddit in manu' Ball'or' q'nd' p'tam vni' Burgagij t're .. p'ut lacet in Thamworth in q'd' venell' sub Tintinabulo: ad opus D'ni Ric'i de Teccebur', Canonici eccl'ie Collegiate de Tamworth,"²

Where "the lane under the bell" can have been, we are unable to conjecture.

MARKET STREET AND PLACE....These formerly consisted of a row of houses and shops on the north alone. The opposite side was occupied by the Castle and its surrounding ditch; and was called the Castle-green. The houses erected on the south side, since the time of Henry VIII., are mostly built at the back on piles, within the ditch, which had been filled up previously with soil and rubbish. The consequence has been that, owing to the want of a completely firm foundation, some of the older buildings have given way in a slight degree.

Market-street and place run parallel with Church-street; and communicate with it by King-street, and, at the top, by Lunn's entry. In the space around the Town-hall, at the east end, is held the market every

¹ Court rolls, 2 H. VI.,—1494.

² Ib., 13 E. II.,—1390.

² Court rolls, Staffordshire, 21 E. I., 6 E. II.

Saturday; as undoubtedly it had been, on the same spot, from the earliest times. In 1285, it is said that Philip de Marmyon made a certain perpresture or encroachment to the detriment of the king's market, by either part of the Castle, of eight feet in breadth, and forty feet in length.¹ In 1563,² and again in 1655,³ the Market-cross is mentioned; so that it would seem there was an appropriate building on the site of the present Town-hall under which the people assembled. The part east and south of this edifice was formerly used as the "Barley-market." In 1711, there was a grant from the corporation of Tamworth to Mr. Mainwearing of Drayton-Basset, steward to lord viscount Weymouth, of two dwelling houses, with "culloms" supporting the over-hanging part, opposite this place. Buildings of this peculiar, and once common, construction are scarcely now found in the town.

GEORGE STREET....This was anciently known as Bull-stake, or Bullstock-street. But it lost that designation on the disuse and removal of the Bull-ring, and received the name of George-street, perhaps from the George Inn. Under this *alias* it is designated in 1704.⁴ On the south side, it was once principally occupied by crofts and gardens; but it is now a regular and good street. It runs from the Market-place to the end of Colehill, nearly parallel with the river Anker and with Church-street, being connected with the latter by College-lane; where the National schools are situated.

AGATEWATER-LEADER....Water-leader in Agas or Agate-lane, or, as it was often called, Agatewater-leader,⁵ lay by the Anker, between the Castle and Bolebridge. On the 8th of May, 1314, a bye-law was made that no

¹ Placita corone, coram J. de Valle, rot. 40., 13 E. I:— Thomas's Dugdale.

² Chamberlain's accounts.

³ Parish Register.

⁴ Title-deeds of that date.

⁵ Court rolls, 25 E. I.

person henceforward should wash the intestines of oxen or other animals at this place, under pain of losing the whole property there washed, besides being fined.¹

SEGORISGATE....This also lay by the same water, and perhaps may have been identical with the last place; but neither now exist.² In 1285, the abbot of Merevale, who possessed land at Tamworth, made a perpresture by obstructing the thoroughfare at a certain lane, where the burgesses of the town were accustomed to draw water.³ It was undoubtedly at this place; for, on the 11th of November, twelve years later, we find that the abbot of the same religious house and Galfrid Wyne were both amerced at the court-leet, for obstructing, with their gardens, a lane leading towards the water at Segorisgate.⁴

July 19, 1294:— "Galfr' Wyne dat Gregor', fil' suo, vnu' mes' in Tameworth, iux' venelam, que ducit u' aq'm que vocat' Oncur, "5

COLEHILL....This was called, in the olden times, Cross-street, from the Stone-cross at its upper end.

Dec. 25, 1381:— "D'us Baldewyn' Freuyle, miles, tradidit Ric'o Mydelton de Tamworth, vnu' mesuag', in com' Warr', sic't iacet in vico voc't le croseestrete, int' mesuag' d'ni Rad'i Basset de Drayton, militis, & mesuag' p'd'ci Baldewyn', & extendit se in longitudi'e a via regia vsq' le kyngges-dyche "6

Colehill is rather short; but it would have formed one of the best streets in the town, were it not for the irremediable inconvenience of its steepness in passing to Gungate. The Unitarian Meeting-house stands on the east side of it.

BULL RING....At the junction of Bolebridge-street, with Colehill and George-street, was placed the Bull-ring, with the Bull-stake, and Bullstakewell.⁷

1 Court rolls, 6 E. II. 2 *Ib.*, 25 E. I.,—1297.

3 Placita corone, 13 E. I.:—Thomas's Dugdale.

4 Court rolls, 25 E. I. 5 *Ib.*, 22 E. I. 6 Indenture, 5 R. II.

7 Court rolls, 24 H. VII.,—1508.

May 6, 1314:— Joh'as de Yarkedych & Margareta vx' ei' h'u't seysnam de vno ten' ex opp'o le Bolestake, 1 Sept. 20, 1424:— "Hec indentura facta int' Thoma' de Ferrera, Armig' Rog'um de Aston, & Hugone' Wylughby, Armig'um, ex p'te vna, & Ricardu' Barbur de Tamworth, & Allanore', vx'am eius, ex alt'ra p'te, testat q'd p'dict' Thomas, Rog'us, & Hugo, tradiderunt p'fato Ric'o & Allanore duo burgagia insimul iacent; in le Bulryng & se extend' de Bulstake-street vaq' kyngesdyche, "2

There are some curious particulars relating to this part of the town, and others in Warwickshire, in "The accountes of henry Baron and Will'm patchet, beyng Chamberlaynes of Tameworth within the County of warwyck, maid the second day of November, An'o d'ni 1563."

"Redyttes.

It'm, Receyued for the Rent of the comon grownd,
iiiij^{li} xiiij^s vj^d

It'm, Receued for sheip pens, xxxviij^s iiij^d

It'm, Receyued of Thomas starkey, for his franchis
mony, iij^s iiij^d

It'm, Receyued of John borrowes, for the reste of his
franchis money, xx^d

It'm, Receyued of John Trayford, for the rest of his
franchis money, x^d

It'm, for the dong hyll at Catcheharm, ij^s

Some vij^{li} viij^d

Paymentes & Allowances.

It'm, Allowance for catcheharm buttes to Robert
Jeamo'd, iij^s

It'm, to be Allowed for henry Richard's pentys, xij^d

It'm, to be Allowed for Mr. John Ferres, for catche-
harm, vj^d

It'm, to be Allowed for Mr. John Ferres, for ij
percel's of ground, laite in the holdyng of will^m
eds, xvj^d

It'm, to be Allowed for John Swyfte, ij^d

1 Court rolls, 7 E. II.

2 Indenture, 3 H. VI.

It'm, paid to thomas freman xxvij lode of sand, vij^s
 It'm, paid to Will'm Robynson & to colman for xx
 loodes of stones, carrege, xj^s viij^d
 It'm, paid to the hird man, for his waigs, xiiij^s iiij^d
 It'm, for makyng of ij comon ledders, ij^s viij^d
 It'm, to the sargeants, for cheise, ij^s iiij^d
 It'm, to the bayly of the hundred, ij^s
 It'm, paid to Mr. Ferres' bayly, vij^s vj^d
 It'm, paid to christofer hollyer, for Tymber, makyng
 of ton well Crowles, with covers for the same,
 and for the Cowkstowle, xiiij^s viij^d
 It'm, for workmanship of Raife baron's shop, xvj^d
 It'm, for the Reperracions of the markyt crosse, j^s iiij^d
 It'm, for mendyng of bowlstok well, viij^d
 It'm, for makyng the bull ryng, xvj^d
 It'm, to John Reide, for worke, vij^s
 It'm, to Richard myln', for worke, xv^d
 It'm, for pyles, iiij^s
 It'm, for carrying of the same, vj^d
 It'm, for xvij sheip pens, vij^s vj^d
 It'm, paid for Tymber, viij^s
 It'm, for sawyng of the same, vj^s vj^d
 It'm, for mendyng the pinfolde & pyllerye, ij^s iiij^d
 Some v^u viij^s xj^d
 And so Remayneth xxxj^s ix^d
 in the boxe xxxj^s ix^d '"

The Bull-ring and Bull-stake, which were usually
 found in every town, were removed at the time when
 the cruel practice to which they were subservient was
 abolished. This change took place here in the course
 of the seventeenth century. It was once considered
 unlawful to slaughter a bull for the purposes of food,
 without it had been being previously subject to this

unmerciful treatment. Occasionally in the court-rolls of the town, at an early date, we find persons fined for having killed these animals before they had been baited by dogs.

July 15, 1397:— "Nich's de Pich' in m'ia, q' occidit q'ndam tauru' no' fugat' canib': pleg' Joh' de Shep' & Ric' Don.'"1

The pillory is first mentioned in 1294; when one Nicholas Alcus, by being sentenced to it, on his conviction, for selling light loaves, the third time, was condemned to the memory of posterity.² So late as 1727, it stood in front of the Town-hall.

Quarter-sessions court, Jan. 11, 1727:— "A bill of Indictmen^t being found by y^e grand Jury ag^t John Gloster, for a petty Larceny com^{mitted} by him, & the Prison^{er} having pleaded guilty to y^e said Indictm^t, It is ordered by this Court that the said John Gloster be publicly whiped at y^e Pillory, in y^e market place, on friday y^e Twelfth day of this Instant January, between y^e hours of eleaven & twelve of y^e Clock, in y^e forenoon."³

Of the cucking-stool, we have nothing to record. To the honour of the good dames of Tamworth in the olden times, we must say that we have not found any instance of this instrument of punishment having been called into use.

BOLEBRIDGE STREET....Bolebridge-street leads from the bottom of George-street and Colehill to Bolebridge, over the river Anker.

Oct., 1324:— "m' illij. Inq^usico capta ex officio p^{er} sac^{er}mentu' duodeci^m Jur^{es}: q' d^{ic}en^t q' d^{ic} Thom' Dotesone & Rob^{ertus} Maled de Bollemline & Thom' fr^{at} ei^{us} veneru^{nt} de Taverna de domo Joh^{annis} de Coton, noct^{urne} die sabb^{ati} p^{ri}x an^{no} f^um s^{an}cti Leonardi, ad oppo^{si}ttu' dom^{us} Galf^{ridi} le Irenmong^{us}, et ibi venit Rob^{ertus} le Cart^{us} de Midelton et eis Insultu' fecit uⁿbis litigiosis: vn^{um} ip^{se}m p^{er}secuti fueru^{nt} vsq^{ue} in domu' d^{omi}ni Galf^{ridi}, quo venit Galf^{ridus} p^{ro}cur^{ator} ad formand^{um} pace^m int^{er} p^{ar}tes; vn^{um} p^{ro}cur^{ator} Galf^{ridus} Insulta^m fecer^{unt} et in domn^{um} sua^m verbaraver^{unt} et v^{er}in^{er}aner^{unt} iniuste. Id^{em} om^{nes} p^{ro}cur^{ator} Rob^{ertus}, Thom^{as}, et Thom^{as} et Rob^{ertus} in m^{en}te."⁴

Of an old family, that took their name from this part of the town, little occurs, except that one of them, doubtlessly from the rustic minstrelsy wherewith he

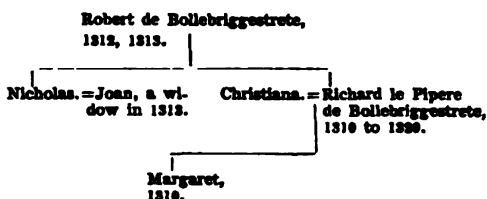
1 Court rolls, 25 E. I.

2 Ib., 22 E. I.

3 Corporation Records,

4 Court rolls, 18 E. II.

delighted his neighbours, and cheered them at the close of their daily labour, was generally termed "le Piper."



Bolebridge-street, in the middle of which, on the east side, stands the Methodists' Meeting-house, is the oldest part of the town now remaining, and the one which has, perhaps, undergone the least improvement. To render it a thoroughly good street, would require very extensive alterations, on account of its narrowness in the middle. Still its character, within the last few years, has been greatly changed for the better.

COCKET'S LANE....Cocket's-lane² and Cocket's-lane-end we cannot identify with certainty.

May, 1490:— "No'unt vniu'al .. me Joh'm Aston, fil' & Hered' Rob'ti Aston de Tamworth, remisase Thome Tallo' de cad'm & Agn' vx' eius, .. tota' ius & clamen' que h'eo in vno orreo cu' gardi'o adjacent', ... p'ut iacet in Tamworth, in Com' Warr', iux' Coketesalone, int' t'r' q'nd' Baldewyny Frevyll & t'r' d'ci Thome, ex vna p'te, & T'r' Thome Fox & t'r' q'nd' Rob'l de Aston, & t'r' Thome Symond, & t'r' p'bend' de Syrescote, ex alt'a p'te; & extendit se in longitudine a venella voc' Coketesalone vsq' t'r' Hemr' Joke. " Court-leet, Oct., 1508:— "Jd. Joh'es Rene h'et vna' Stoke iac' in Regia via, ap'd Coketysalone-jade." ³

DEAD LANES, PERRYCROFT LANE, AND SCHOOLHOUSE LANE....From the bottom of Bolebridge-street, some small lanes run northward, to a little distance beyond the top of Aldergate-street; and then a path turns off westwards into Gungate. The part continuing on the same line is formed by the two Dead-lanes,⁴ and by Perrycroft lane.⁵ The mark of division between these two, is where they are joined by a short road, called School-

¹ Court rolls, 3, 7, 9, 14 E. II. ² Ib., 8 E. II, 1314. ³ Ib., 7 H. V., 24 H. VII.

⁴ Perambulation, 1697. ⁵ Court rolls, 7 H. V.,—1430.

house-lane,¹ leading from Gungate, nearly opposite the Free Grammar School, and at the corner of the Alms-houses. Perrycroft-lane is so called from the numerous orchards and gardens situated in its neighbourhood. The Perrycrofts have held that name from time out of record. A very small portion of them lies within the precincts of the old borough.

*Court-leet, May, 1369:— "It' p' q'd Joh'es de Clynton, miles, includ' porta' voc' perercroftgate, que deberet e'e ap'ta om'ib' tenent', l'o in m'ia: et p' est q'd ap'tat sub pena vj' vlijd'"*²

There was an ancient family surnamed "de Piricroft."

VICTORIA ROAD....There only remains for us, before we conclude this division of our history, to speak of the new road formed from the end of George-street, to the station of the Birmingham and Derby Junction Railroad. It was made at the expence of the company to whom that line belongs, for the convenience of passengers. It is a neat and wide road; and promises, if well maintained, in a little time, to form a street. But lately some difference has arisen as to the parties who should keep it in repair. The directors of the company, compelled reluctantly to form an expensive approach to the town, have refused to give their aid, as it had not been stipulated. The corporation have refused, because it is mostly out of the limits of their jurisdiction. And the inhabitants of Bolehall have declined to interfere, because the road affords no convenience to them. Some arrangement must soon be effected.

After her gracious Majesty had passed along this road, on her way to and from Drayton-manor, it was determined that it should be named Victoria-road, in

¹ Perambulation, 1867. ² Court rolls, 43 E. III.

CENSUS TAKEN ON THE 10TH OF MARCH, 1801.

STAFFORDSHIRE.	Houses.				Families.					Persons.					
	Inhabited.	Uninhabited.	Building.	Total.	Employed in				Number.	Employed in			Males.	Females.	Total.
					Tra.	Agri.	Nel.	Tra.		Agri.	Nel.				
BOROUGH.															
Church-street	39	2	0	32	19	1	0	39	81	11	39	61	78	131	269
Gungate	46	0	0	46	25	13	6	44	163	62	39	97	167	264	544
Church-lane	16	0	0	16	11	4	2	17	39	19	3	39	33	61	133
Aldergate-lane	12	0	0	12	10	3	0	13	36	4	2	36	36	62	134
Lichfield-street	92	7	0	99	63	16	19	98	264	86	117	183	264	467	1094
Pool-street	24	0	0	24	16	6	2	24	73	33	19	62	53	115	240
Silver-street, and Lady- bridge-bank	14	1	0	15	15	0	1	16	63	1	9	39	35	73	155
Workhouse	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	41	16	25	41	87
	338	11	0	349	189	43	40	342	679	216	260	533	633	1154	2487
PARISH.															
Fazeley	92	7	0	99	78	19	5	102	468	116	33	236	333	611	1314
Bittercote, Bangley, and Dunstall	12	0	0	12	7	4	1	12	56	27	7	45	39	84	187
Bonehill	31	3	0	34	17	8	7	32	110	54	46	99	111	210	459
Wigginton	40	3	0	43	7	40	5	52	33	173	15	110	109	219	472
Coton, Aldermilla, & the Moor	39	1	0	30	11	17	3	31	63	76	17	73	83	156	345
Comberford	23	1	0	23	3	18	3	23	13	73	12	43	54	97	214
Hopwas and Hopwas-hays Sycroote	37	0	0	37	10	28	1	39	47	146	12	165	94	199	442
	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	13	0	8	8	13	29
	373	15	0	388	133	132	27	392	778	670	141	741	848	1589	3509
Total in Staffordshire	501	26	0	527	392	176	67	534	1457	883	401	1963	1480	2743	6291
WARWICKSHIRE.															
BOROUGH.															
Church-street	63	0	0	63	42	6	21	69	188	18	86	130	153	289	631
Gungate	53	1	0	54	34	13	8	57	134	75	47	123	133	256	563
Poor-house	1	0	0	1	0	0	8	8	0	0	24	10	14	34	78
Almahouses	1	0	0	1	0	0	13	13	0	0	21	6	15	21	47
Silver-street	7	0	0	7	6	0	2	8	35	0	8	25	18	43	96
Market-street	35	1	0	36	31	2	2	35	194	8	30	164	123	287	645
George-street	50	0	0	50	41	3	8	52	205	11	37	117	136	253	596
College-lane	18	0	0	18	17	0	2	19	72	1	18	45	46	91	206
Colehill	15	0	0	15	9	2	5	16	50	10	21	33	48	81	184
Bolebridge-street	74	5	0	79	50	14	17	81	237	34	68	131	208	339	784
	317	7	0	324	236	43	86	358	1115	157	360	733	899	1632	3747
PARISH.															
Amington and Stonydelph Bolehall	37	1	2	40	8	30	1	39	29	166	8	166	99	265	590
Bolehall	42	0	0	42	24	11	11	46	115	66	32	89	124	219	490
Giascote	15	1	0	16	6	7	3	16	31	32	14	33	34	67	154
Castle-liberty	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	2	5
Willneote	97	14	0	111	46	42	10	98	197	190	37	193	231	424	988
Dosthill	3	0	0	3	0	1	1	2	0	0	3	4	5	9	21
Two-gates	11	0	0	11	0	2	0	11	34	8	0	19	23	42	97
	305	16	2	323	93	93	27	213	396	470	96	445	517	968	2217
Total in Warwickshire ...	822	23	2	847	323	138	113	571	1511	627	456	1178	1416	2594	5805
Total in the town	845	18	0	863	389	85	126	600	1794	373	630	1253	1531	2786	6080
Total in the parish	1023	49	2	1074	618	310	180	1105	3066	1512	857	2441	2896	5337	11885

The Parish-register from the time of the civil war, has been accurately kept. But they do not contain the whole of the baptisms, marriages, and deaths; for, in 1801, out of 1105 families, 7 professed the Roman Catholic faith; 7, that of the society of Friends; 6, that of the Baptists; and 24 belonged to different forms of Protestant dissent. As, however, the Church-yard was the only place of sepulture, except for the Quakers, the number of deaths recorded in the register, must be very nearly equal to the number of births. To the account of the baptisms, those occurring in the 24 families of dissenters have been added; so that the list only excludes Catholics, Baptists, Quakers, and those children who died before they were received into the Church, according to the rites of the established religion. Hence four or five should probably be added to the baptisms, to make them equal to the births.

The annual average of baptisms and burials at Tamworth, within the first half of the eighteenth century, taken for seven years indiscriminately, is as follows:

Males.....	56 Baptisms.	40 Burials.
Females.....	47 „	43 „
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	103	83

Average of the ten years, from 1780 to 1790.

Males.....	64 · 75 Bap.	43	Bur.	32 · 5 Mar.
Females.....	67 · 75 „	43 · 33	„	
	<hr/>	<hr/>		
	132 · 5	86 · 33		

Average of the ten years, from 1790 to 1800.

Males.....	77 · 5 Bap.	51	Bur.	36 · 5 Mar.
Females.....	84 · 5 „	51 · 2	„	
	<hr/>	<hr/>		
	162	102 · 2		

Hence, it is evident that a very considerable increase took place in the population of the parish, particularly during the last ten years. This circumstance was principally owing to the establishment of extensive cotton manufactories, in the town and neighbourhood. The number of baptisms also became more disproportionate to the burials. This was attributed to the better mode adopted for preserving the lives of infants, when inoculation began generally to prevail.

The number of burials annually, for the last seven years, was 1 in 52 persons, and the births, 1 in 3·5; and the baptisms exceeded the burials by 40%. Therefore, the proportion of births to burials was very nearly as 8 to 5.

In the early part of the eighteenth century, the burials were annually about 1 in 40 persons; at the close, 1 in 52.

The number of females baptised, within the last eleven years, exceeded the males by 96, being in the proportion of 9 to 8. But, in almost all former periods, the males were to the females as 12 to 11.

The marriages, for the same time, were annually 1 in every 142 persons.

At the time of the census being taken, the number	
Of married persons in the parish was	1678
Of children and persons grown up, but	
still living with their parents, with-	
out any separate establishment,	2527
Of widowers and widows,	308
Of single independent persons,	370
Of servants, apprentices, shopmen, or	
journeymen, living with their	
masters,	454

For the last four years, an account was taken of the ages of persons buried.

Under	2	years	.	.	.	111
Between	2	and	5	.	.	48
....	5	....	10	.	.	11
....	10	....	20	.	.	32
....	20	....	30	.	.	26
....	30	....	40	.	.	37
....	40	....	50	.	.	32
....	50	....	60	.	.	25
....	60	....	70	.	.	31
....	70	....	80	.	.	45
....	80	....	90	.	.	25
....	90	and upwards	.	.	.	4
						<hr/> 427 <hr/>

This makes it appear that the general longevity of the inhabitants of the parish is very great, 74 persons out of 427 having attained an age of 70 years and upwards: being an average of in every 5 · 77 persons.

Several persons of this parish have been especially noticed as having attained the age of more than 100 years. John Meggs died in 1772, aged 101; Thomas Fletcher, in 1590, aged 102; William Fasher, in 1785, aged 118; and William Farr, in 1769, aged 121. The latter person was a native of Birmingham, and employed as the Tamworth-carrier. He had one-hundred and forty-four children, grand-children, and great-grand-children; but he survived them all, and left 10,000*l.* for charitable uses.

Instances of extraordinary longevity have occurred even recently within the town.

CENSUS TAKEN ON THE 27TH OF MAY, 1811.

STAFFORDSHIRE.	Houses.				Families.				Persons.			
	Inhabited.	Uninhabited.	Building.	Total.	Employed in			Number.	Male.	Female.	Persons in local militia.	Total.
					Tra.	Agri.	Nat.					
BOROUGH.												
Church-street	33	1	0	34	21	3	9	33	49	37	5	140
Gungate	41	0	0	41	23	15	5	43	84	93	6	177
Church-lane	14	0	0	14	11	4	1	16	30	23	7	53
Aldergate-lane	25	0	0	25	14	11	1	26	78	79	4	140
Lichfield-street	108	7	0	115	71	23	19	115	267	290	24	537
Peel-street	25	1	0	26	18	5	4	27	73	67	11	142
Silver-street, &c.	16	1	0	17	14	0	3	16	31	40	2	10
Workhouse	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	15	0	0	30
	363	10	0	373	173	63	41	377	689	698	59	1347
PARISH.												
Fazeley	138	3	0	138	101	33	7	143	394	323	24	910
Bitterscote, Bangley, Dunstall	11	0	0	11	6	3	0	11	34	39	2	60
Bonehill	37	0	0	37	23	14	1	38	119	106	6	225
Wigginton	53	0	0	53	4	43	5	54	112	123	4	234
Coton, Aldermilla, & the Moor	28	2	0	30	13	13	3	28	78	102	10	190
Comberford	22	0	0	22	0	30	3	33	46	51	1	97
Hopwas, and Hopwas-hays ..	38	1	0	39	8	27	6	41	80	93	5	173
Syercote	5	0	0	5	5	0	0	5	18	13	0	31
	318	6	0	324	157	162	23	343	801	1038	53	1919
Total in Staffordshire	681	16	0	697	330	225	64	619	1510	1726	111	3246
WARWICKSHIRE.												
BOROUGH.												
Church-street	66	1	1	68	44	12	13	68	168	144	23	312
Gungate	51	2	0	53	35	12	11	58	107	119	11	226
Poor-house	1	0	0	1	2	2	4	8	11	18	0	29
Alms-houses	1	0	0	1	1	0	13	14	3	15	0	18
Silver-street	5	0	0	5	4	0	1	5	11	14	1	25
Market-street	36	0	0	36	34	0	0	40	116	122	15	232
George-street	46	1	0	47	36	2	16	54	121	130	9	259
College-lane	18	0	0	18	13	2	4	19	37	36	4	63
Colehill	14	1	0	15	11	0	3	14	36	44	3	80
Bolebridge-street	80	0	0	80	65	17	11	93	178	236	25	414
	318	5	1	324	245	47	51	373	778	886	98	1664
PARISH.												
Amlington and Stonydelph ..	43	0	0	43	6	37	1	44	130	129	2	253
Bolehall	50	3	0	53	29	19	6	54	105	134	5	239
Glascote	15	3	0	18	4	10	1	15	38	43	1	80
Castle-liberty	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	2
Wilnecote	106	2	2	110	46	58	3	107	212	237	6	449
Dosthill	2	0	0	2	0	1	1	2	10	9	0	19
Two-gates	11	0	0	11	9	2	0	11	20	20	0	40
	228	8	2	238	94	127	13	234	513	573	14	1004
Total in Warwickshire	546	13	3	562	339	174	94	607	1390	1458	104	2748
Total in the town	581	15	1	597	418	110	122	650	1407	1584	149	2991
Total in the parish	1127	29	3	1159	669	299	158	1236	2800	3104	215	5994

CENSUS TAKEN ON THE 28TH OF MAY, 1821.

STAFFORDSHIRE.	Houses.				Families.				Persons.		
	Inhabited.	Uninhabited.	Building.	Total.	Employed in			Number.	Males.	Females.	Total.
					Tra.	Agri.	Nat.				
BOROUGH.											
Church-street	35	3	0	38	24	4	10	38	103	91	194
Gangate	53	2	1	56	36	9	9	54	112	139	251
Church-lane	30	1	0	31	16	3	2	20	43	34	77
Aldergate-street	30	1	0	31	27	7	4	38	63	90	153
Lichfield-street	162	3	0	165	121	26	21	168	435	411	846
Silver-street, &c.	18	1	0	19	13	0	7	20	51	53	104
	324	13	1	338	237	48	53	338	827	909	1636
PARISH.											
Fazeley	189	4	0	193	129	37	39	205	563	625	1188
Bitterscote, Bangley, Dunstall	12	0	0	12	5	3	5	13	36	34	70
Bonehill	50	0	2	52	28	15	7	50	143	136	279
Wigginton	50	}	2	154	23	103	25	153	115	132	247
Coton, Aldermills, & the Moor											
Comberford	19								49	39	88
Hopwas	43								84	81	165
Hopwas-hays	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	3
Syrcote	8	0	0	8	2	6	0	8	22	19	41
	411	6	3	420	187	166	77	430	1042	1218	2260
Total in Staffordshire	735	19	4	758	424	314	130	768	1869	2027	3896
WARWICKSHIRE.											
BOROUGH.											
Church-street	70	3	0	73	49	11	12	72	175	185	360
Gangate	75	3	0	78	44	21	11	76	153	202	355
Silver-street	7	0	0	7	5	0	2	7	14	14	28
Market-street	37	3	0	40	36	0	3	39	92	123	215
King-street	5	1	0	6	4	1	0	5	10	12	22
George-street	48	2	0	50	44	3	9	55	131	143	274
College-lane	17	0	0	17	13	3	3	18	37	37	74
Colehill	17	1	0	18	12	0	5	17	23	44	67
Bolebridge-street	117	2	0	119	98	13	9	120	282	261	543
	393	15	0	408	305	50	54	409	917	1021	1938
PARISH.											
Amington and Stonydelph	49	2	0	51	9	42	1	52	130	127	257
Bolehall and Glascoth	78	4	0	82	25	33	20	78	190	234	424
Castle-liberty	5	0	0	5	1	1	3	5	10	9	19
Wilnecote, Dosthill, Two gates	139	0	0	139	56	66	19	141	343	310	653
	271	6	0	277	91	142	43	276	673	670	1343
Total in Warwickshire	664	21	0	685	396	192	97	685	1590	1691	3281
Total in the town	717	28	1	746	542	98	107	747	1744	1830	3574
Total in the parish.	1899	40	4	1943	820	406	227	1453	3459	3718	7177

AGES OF PERSONS.

STAFFORDSHIRE.	Males under										Females under									
	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
Borough.																				
Church-street	27	27	12	9	10	4	3	1	0		17	16	26	16	7	4	3	2	1	
Gungate	31	29	15	16	11	12	9	1	1		26	29	21	16	12	11	8	2	1	
Church-lane	14	8	9	3	7	1	1	0	0		5	9	6	2	5	2	2	2	1	
Aldergate-street	31	12	15	10	6	4	2	2	3		23	18	25	19	3	5	2	1	0	
Lichfield-street, &c. ...	125	100	62	44	41	27	23	11	1		164	67	81	43	42	26	22	2	4	
Silver-street, &c.	11	13	7	6	2	1	2	2	2		7	10	12	10	7	1	2	2	0	
	299	190	119	92	77	49	37	17	7		185	169	172	99	76	49	41	11	7	
PARISH.																				
Fazeley, Bangley, Bonehill, &c.	264	152	101	95	66	43	17	8	2		224	168	166	93	63	40	16	5	0	
Hopwas-hays	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Wigginton, Comber- ford, Coton, Hopwas, &c.	91	88	58	38	28	24	31	5	2		92	105	79	40	33	27	24	9	2	
Byarscote	1	8	5	2	3	1	1	1	0		5	5	3	2	1	1	1	1	0	
	265	219	262	164	128	91	68	49	14		321	278	266	135	97	66	43	15	2	
Total in Staffordshire	525	409	283	268	196	157	68	31	12		506	447	432	234	173	66	65	9	0	
WARWICKSHIRE.																				
Borough.																				
Church-street	46	42	22	20	18	12	9	5	1		55	27	27	24	15	10	11	6	0	
Gungate	42	27	22	21	12	9	9	9	2		52	32	34	27	13	12	12	17	2	
Silver-street	4	4	1	3	1	0	1	0	0		0	5	2	0	3	1	2	0	1	
Market-street	10	18	28	12	13	5	4	2	0		19	28	22	17	11	8	4	2	0	
King-street	5	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0		4	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	
George-street	27	22	20	14	9	4	10	4	1		20	23	24	17	17	8	7	5	1	
College-lane	18	8	4	4	5	1	2	1	0		8	8	7	8	8	0	0	1	1	
Colehill	3	6	6	1	1	2	3	1	0		4	10	16	4	6	0	2	1	1	
Bolebridge-street	91	58	24	20	12	15	6	1			66	48	52	27	27	12	10	0	0	
	243	194	147	107	98	48	38	28	6		268	202	206	122	83	49	42	2	1	
PARISH.																				
Amington & Stonydelph	22	19	27	15	10	10	12	3	2		20	26	22	12	18	10	10	2	1	
Bolehall and Glascoats	62	39	26	21	19	11	9	3	0		59	51	39	25	14	10	6	0	3	
Castle-liberty	3	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0		1	3	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	
Willnecote, Dosthill, & Two-gates	102	57	58	33	35	22	25	8	3		70	64	52	42	32	22	14	11	2	
	199	115	112	79	64	43	47	17	5		166	144	115	79	66	45	30	0	1	
Total in Warwickshire	442	269	259	177	159	101	88	43	16		388	246	221	111	107	66	63	6	2	
Total in the town....	428	284	266	190	177	109	84	45	17		411	271	276	121	107	66	63	6	2	
Total in the parish ..	977	718	525	465	357	258	151	78	23		894	713	703	353	284	131	111	11	3	

From 1801 to 1811, an increase of 654 persons had taken place in the parish; of which 205 were in the town. The number of baptisms and burials had accordingly increased; but they bore about the same relative proportion.

Baptisms.

166 · 5

Burials.

106 · 6

There was an addition of 34 houses, of 50 families, of 152 males, and of 53 females in the town.

From 1801 to 1821, in the town, there had been an addition of 183 houses, of 147 families, of 489 males, and of 299 females; making an increase in population of 788 persons. From 1811 to 1821, there had been an addition of 149 houses, of 97 families, of 337 males, and of 246 females; making an increase of 583 persons. But, in 1821, there were actually 12 families less employed in agriculture than in 1811; and only 11 more, than in 1801. Yet, it must not be concluded that the agricultural interests of Tamworth were declining. The decrease in the number of families thus engaged, is explained by the increasing prevalence of the custom for persons occupying farms and lands to add to their resources, some manufacture, handicraft, or business of commercial nature. It is a great defect in the different returns, calculated to convey an erroneous impression, that the families should have been recorded under one or other heads of employment exclusively. Had the number of those combining both occupations been given, we are thoroughly convinced that agriculture, as well as trade, would have been found to have increased proportionally with the population.

From the table of ages, it is seen that 99 males, and 110 females, in the parish, had attained an age of 70

years. The females, therefore, were the longer lived; the proportion being 1 in 33·12, whilst with the men, it was 1 in 34·95. This gives an average of 1 person in 34·29 surviving to 70 years,—a result very different from that of the ages of those buried, recorded by the rev. F. Blick, as we gave them in 1801.

CENSUS TAKEN ON THE 30TH OF MAY, 1831.

In the population returns for 1831 and 1841, we shall not enter into the full details, as we have previous done, respecting the town; but merely give the amount for the side in each county, and then add a few general remarks.

STAFFORDSHIRE.	Acres.	Houses.				Families.				Persons.			
		Inhabited.	Uninhabited.	Building.	Total.	Employed in			Number.	Males.			Total.
						Tnn.	Agri.	Nal.		Number.	Number 50 years of age.	Females.	
Tamworth	110	338	10	1	349	184	11	164	359	850	383	961	1711
Fazeley	2150	223	9	0	231	102	42	140	284	554	263	585	1138
Bangley and Bonehill ..		50	3	3	65	15	31	30	76	145	72	138	283
Bitterscote	350	2	0	0	2	0	2	0	2	5	2	0	12
Hopwas-hays	500	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	3
Wigginton, Coton, &c.....	3470	157	9	0	166	34	126	15	165	378	163	350	737
Syerscote	950	8	0	0	8	2	6	0	8	14	9	20	34
Total in Staffordshire	7530	787	31	4	822	337	218	350	895	1947	892	1979	3917
WARWICKSHIRE.													
Tamworth		391	29	0	420	195	2	214	411	816	423	1010	1639
Amington & Stonydelph ..		58	0	0	58	7	47	4	58	139	78	125	264
Bolehall and Goscote ..	5390	92	0	0	92	24	27	46	97	211	103	210	421
Castle-liberty		10	0	0	10	4	4	3	11	33	15	33	60
Willscote, with Dosthill ..		138	0	0	138	74	30	36	140	348	156	340	690
Total in Warwickshire ...	5390	669	29	0	718	304	110	303	717	1647	775	1718	3363
Total in the town	110	729	29	1	769	374	13	378	770	1666	805	1871	3537
Total in the parish	12090	1476	60	4	1540	631	328	653	1612	3494	1667	3688	7183

In the census for 1831, there were other matters stated, mostly regarding occupations, which it is not very important to give.

INCREASE IN POPULATION OF THE TOWN.

To 1831.	Houses.	Families.	Males.	Females.	Total.
From 1801	206	170	411	340	751
From 1811	173	120	259	287	546
From 1821	23	23	*	41	*

But, from 1821 to 1831, the males had decreased by 78, leaving the population of the town 37 less in the latter than in the former year.

From 1821 to 1831, although there was an increase of 23 families, the number of those exclusively employed in agriculture had diminished from 98 to 13.

CENSUS TAKEN ON THE 7TH OF JUNE, 1841.

STAFFORDSHIRE.	Houses.				Persons.			Ages.				Place of birth.	
	Inhabited.	Uninhabited.	Building.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Under 20 years.		Above 20 years.		In this county.	Elsewhere.
								Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		
Tamworth	362	7	1	370	862	935	1797	412	413	450	522	1250	538
Pazeley	224	14	1	239	532	588	1120	239	277	293	311	761	359
Bangley	3	0	0	3	9	9	17	3	2	6	6	14	3
Bickerscote	12	0	0	12	20	24	44	6	9	14	15	31	13
Bonehill	62	1	0	63	156	167	323	74	78	82	89	235	88
Dunstall	1	0	0	1	4	2	6	2	0	2	2	2	4
Hopwas-hays	1	0	0	1	2	2	4	0	0	2	2	2	0
Wigginton	54	0	0	54	127	117	244	64	49	63	68	220	15
Coton	48	2	0	51	102	113	215	45	54	58	59	185	31
Comberford	25	0	0	25	59	63	122	27	29	32	34	116	6
Hopwas	59	0	0	59	123	134	257	69	61	64	73	260	7
Byerscote	9	0	0	9	28	18	46	16	9	12	9	23	24
Total in Staffordshire	860	28	2	887	2035	2171	4206	957	981	1078	1190	3118	1088
WARWICKSHIRE.													
Tamworth	419	20	1	440	907	1085	1992	413	481	494	604	1418	574
Amington and Stonydelph	59	6	0	65	148	128	276	67	59	81	69	222	84
Bolehall and Glascoate	110	2	0	112	246	249	495	107	102	139	147	312	163
Castle liberty	12	1	0	13	31	28	59	16	13	13	15	42	17
Wilnecote, with Dosthill, Kettlebrook, &c.	181	12	1	164	361	357	718	168	170	193	197	564	164
Total in Warwickshire	781	41	2	794	1693	1847	3540	771	825	922	1022	2558	962
Total in the town	781	27	2	810	1769	2020	3789	826	894	944	1126	2677	1112
Total in the parish	1611	66	4	1681	3728	4018	7746	1738	1800	2000	2212	5670	2070

The return for the Staffordshire part of the town included 32 males, and 40 females in the Tamworth Union-Workhouse, and 1 male and 11 females in a private lunatic asylum. That for the Warwickshire part included 1 male in the town prison.

INCREASE IN POPULATION OF THE TOWN.

To 1841.	House.	Males.	Females.	Total.
From 1801.....	247	214	489	1003
From 1811.....	213	262	436	798
From 1821.....	64	25	199	215
From 1831.....	41	163	149	232

From these five returns, and our remarks, it is evident that Tamworth has been gradually progressing in size and population, since the commencement of the 18th century, and that the town is becoming, in an increasing proportion, a place of trade.

TRADE, MARKET, AND FAIRS.

Our researches have thrown very little light upon the condition of Tamworth, as respects its trade and manufactures, in olden times. It is probable that the inhabitants have ever been more deeply engaged in agricultural pursuits, than in mechanical occupations. They have never cultivated any one branch of manufacture so extensively, as to render it their staple article of trade.

Tanneries have been established in the town, from time immemorial; and have only ceased to exist within the last four years. During a considerable period, narrow cloths of excellent quality, were manufactured in large quantity. These works were abandoned, and the mills eventually pulled down, about a century ago. We have already mentioned the important benefits conferred upon the town by the introduction of the cotton spinning and calico printing into the neighbourhood. For thirty years, these manufactures, under the able superintendence of the late sir Robert Peel, flourished with the greatest success. They afforded constant employment to numerous families; and sensibly increased the population of the town. The factories were situated principally at Fazeley, and Bonehill. Here their enterprising owner, acquired a great portion of his property, and laid the foundation for the splendid

fortunes of his family. The factories, at Fazeley are still in operation; but the others have long been abandoned.

Fifteen or twenty years ago, there were several manufactories of net, lace, and Brussels' carpets. Still more recently, there was an extensive establishment for the making of patten-ties. These succeeded for a time, but sank, at length, under the depressed condition of the markets, and the effects of too successful competition. Many of the poorer inhabitants also earned a scanty addition to their means of subsistence, by plaiting straw, for the straw-bonnet trade.

At the present time, the principal manufactories in the town and neighbourhood, are the tape-mills of Mr. Harding, in Bolehall, and Mr. Etienne B. Hamel, in Bolebridge-street. The Castle-mills have been enlarged, and are now used for the manufacture of paper; and there are extensive works of the same kind, and also for printing paper by patent machinery, for hanging rooms, at Alder mills. The fabrication of hats, cord, and string, and the process of dyeing, and tallow-chandling, are also carried on to some extent.

The shopkeepers of Tamworth are comparatively wealthy men. Although their shops do not vie with the showy "establishments" of larger towns, they usually acquire an honourable independence, and not unfrequently amass considerable fortunes.

The greater part of the inhabitants, depend for subsistence, however, directly or indirectly, upon the cultivation of the soil. The town is surrounded, on all sides, by fertile, well cultivated land. This is laid out in farms, orchards, and gardens. The meadows yield abundant crops of hay, sometimes affording, in one

year, two successive harvests. The arable land presents luxuriant fields of wheat, barley, oats, turnips, and other valuable produce. The orchards and gardens, in the immediate vicinity of the town, are very extensive; and not only supply the wants of its inhabitants, but also furnish a prodigious quantity of fruit and vegetables for more distant markets. More than fifty carts are employed in conveying the produce of this district to Birmingham alone.

The character of Tamworth, as an agricultural locality, has been determined by various circumstances. A fertile soil,—copious streams of water,—facilities for effectual drainage, secured by the gentle inclination of the surrounding hills,—excellent roads, offering an easy communication with various markets,—form no ordinary combination of advantages. To these, may be added,—plentiful supplies of coal, from the coal-fields of Kettlebrook and Polesworth,—stone, from Dosthill and Amington;—excellent bricks and tiles, made from the immense beds of clay, which constitute the hills north of the town,—and abundance of timber.

The farmers of this district, are enlightened and practical men. Justly regarding the proper cultivation of the soil, as the securest basis for their prosperity, they have neglected no means of taking proper advantage of the natural facilities thus provided for them. The dreary tracts of heath and forest and the wide expanse of marshy meadows have disappeared, and given place to gardens, orchards, groves, and fields of waving corn.

With the view of communicating their experience, and introducing new and successful modes of agriculture, they have formed the “Tamworth Farmers’ Club,”—

well adapted to diffuse practical information in the important science which form its object. The right honourable sir Robert Peel,—the active promoter of every public scheme calculated to benefit the town,—is the patron of the society.

The formation of the Birmingham and Derby Junction Railway, and the projected lines,—the “Churnet-Valley” and “Trent-Valley,”—intended to communicate with that railway in the vicinity of the town, cannot fail to give a fresh impulse, and a new direction, to its industry. Possessed of a rapid and cheap mode of transit to and from all parts of the kingdom, it is easy to foresee that the increasing population of Tamworth will undoubtedly, ere long, obtain profitable employment in trades and manufactures hitherto neglected, or but feebly carried on.

Tamworth possesses the advantage of an excellent MARKET for corn, hay, meat, eggs, butter, earthenware, and other articles of general utility. It is held every Saturday, and appears to have been kept on that day, from a very early period. Leland names Tamworth as “having a celebrate Market.”¹ In 1560, queen Elizabeth rendered it a chartered right; and the grant was confirmed by the letters patent of king Charles II., in 1663.

A careful comparison of the incidental notices contained in ancient records still in existence, has led us to adopt the opinion that, before the incorporation of the town by Elizabeth under one jurisdiction, Tamworth possessed two separate Markets. One was probably held, by the ancient Stone-Cross, at the junction of Butcher-street, Gumpegate, and Cross-street; and the other in the present Market-place.

¹ Itin., vol. IV, 189 b.

About the reign of Edward III., the FAIRS held within the town were very numerous: indeed, they seem to have occurred nearly every month.¹ Most of these were doubtless held by prescription. A great Fair, commencing on the feast of saint Swythen, formerly belonged to the dean and prebendaries of the Church, who received the tolls and profits. It was instituted at a very early time, on the annual commemoration of the dedication of that edifice, and named originally in honour of the sainted Editha, whose feast was celebrated on the same day as that of the canonised bishop of Winchester. It should, therefore, be called Saint Editha's, instead of Saint Swythen's, Fair.

At the period when all the ecclesiastical property throughout England, was seized by the crown, this Fair came into the hands of Elizabeth. By her second charter, she granted it to the corporation; although she had previously sold the Church and prebends, with all rights, to laymen. These having fallen into the possession of Thomas Repington, Nicholas Breton, George Corbin, William Necton, and Alexander Morley, a dispute arose between them and the bailiffs; and the latter obtained an injunction, in the high court of Chancery, dated upon the 18th of June, 1589, by which they were empowered to receive the profits of the Fair, until it should be otherwise ordered. The grounds on which this decision was made, were, that the fair was *expressly* given to the bailiffs, whereas it was not *named* in the sale of the Church-property. It was afterwards, however, restored to those who held the deanery and prebends.

It was formerly famous for the fruits and vegetable produce brought to it for sale, which obtained for it the general appellation of "Cherry Fair."

¹ Court rolls, temp. E. III.

Edward III. bestowed two Fairs upon the inhabitants of the Town, on the feasts of St. George and St. Edward.¹ The three Fairs only are mentioned in the charters of Elizabeth. The remainder must have fallen into disuse previous to the reign of Henry VIII.; for Leland omits all mention of them, but says,—“There be 3 Fayres yearely in the Towne; whereof the Towne hath 2, and the Colledge, one.”²

In consequence of the change of style, in 1752, St. George's Fair is now held on the 4th of May, instead of the 23rd of April; St Swythen's, on the 26th, instead of the 15th of July; and St. Edward's, on the 24th, instead of the 13th, of October. They are now never continued during the four ensuing days.

In 1792, two other annual Fairs were added, with the consent of the bailiffs,—one on the Monday before the 25th day of January; the other on the first Monday in September.

A more recent alteration has increased the number of the Fairs to eight, as shown in the following table:—

- 1 Monday before the 25th of January.
- 2 First Monday in March.
- 3 First Monday in April.
- 4 May 4th. St. George's Fair.
- 5 July 26th. St. Editha's Fair.
- 6 First Monday in September.
- 7 October 24th. St. Edward's Fair.
- 8 Third Monday in December.

1 See page 90. 2 *Ibid.*, vol. IV, fol. 90 a.

THE CHURCH.

HISTORY.

The year 597 has been rendered one of the most memorable in the annals of our country. That time was signalized by the arrival of Augustin from Rome, to announce and propagate the Christian faith. Regardless of dangers and difficulties, he hastened hither to raise a mighty voice to Heaven, in places where profound silence had previously reigned, and to dispel the midnight-gloom of idolatry by echoing the good tidings, and reflecting the celestial light, which watching shepherds once had heard and seen. The success attendant upon the apostolical exertions of this great missionary and his fellow-labourers, was truly wonderful. Within the space of eighty-five years, Christianity had spread, not amongst a few inhabitants on the spot where Augustin had first landed, not in one royal court alone, but throughout all the kingdoms of the Saxon heptarchy. By the conversion of Peada, in 656, Mercia received the faith; and, six years afterward, it was permanently secured by Wulphere's adopting the great banner of the Cross. This event was speedily followed by the destruction of the places of pagan worship; and soon the religious aspect of the land was entirely changed.

The existence of a Church at Tamworth, within the course of a century after the introduction of Christianity into the centre of England, cannot well be called in

question. At the period when Offa and other Mercian kings, with their councillors, amongst whom were bishops and other ecclesiastical persons, resorted to this place, particularly at great festivals, it was undoubtedly adorned with all the splendour which was adopted in those times. It is even not improbable that Edgar and Wigberht, witnesses to one of Coenwulf's charters, in 814, and Aetheluulf, who signed one of Berhtwulf's, in 845, were priests here; for their names are only attached to documents bearing date at this town.

The first edifice, however, must have suffered total destruction, when the Danes over-ran the country, and razed Tamworth to the ground. In the Church which succeeded, Athelstan witnessed the reception of the Danish king, Sihtric, into the Christian fold: and there he bestowed upon him the hand of her, in honour of whom, it is supposed, the building was subsequently consecrated. Under what saintly patronage the previous Church had been placed, is unknown. It is not unlikely that this second edifice suffered when Anlaf stormed and sacked the town. His bitter hatred of the Saxons and their faith, would naturally direct his fury against the place, where his father had been compelled, from motives of policy, to embrace their creed,—an event in which originated his own ill-fortune.

It has been stated that, about 963, Edgar, who reigned from 959 to 975, founded the present Church, and rendered it collegiate.¹ It would, thence, seem that the edifice was then re-erected after Anlaf's visit. Were this matter indubitable, we might from it infer how greatly Tamworth had suffered at the hand of the ruthless Dane. But this opinion is destitute of any very

¹ M.S. entitled "old notes of the Colledge-house," temp. Car. I.

good and unquestionable authority; although there are many circumstances which give it the appearance of truth. Leland was of a different opinion, at least with regard to the College. He says, "I could not learne of whose Ereccion the Colledge was. Some thinke it was a Colledge befor the Conquest, others that it was of the foundation of Marmion; and that Opinion is more likely to be true. Marmions, without doubt, were the succeſſe Lordes of the Castle."¹ Camden also ascribes to one of this family both the building of the Church, and the establishment of the College.²

The suppositions of these eminent antiquaries are strongly corroborated by the facts of the oldest parts of the edifice exhibiting the Norman style of architecture, and of the deanery and prebends being originally in the gift of the possessors of the Castle. But, on the other hand, on account of the remains of the dean's house, which now stand, being certainly Saxon, the foundation of the College would seem to be referable to Edgar. Questions of a similar nature might be equally raised on both sides. We can hardly hope to arrive at a satisfactory determination, when Leland was unable to obtain any exact information. He possessed the advantage of having visited the town before the dissolution of the College, and the loss or destruction of the records of the Church; to which he most probably had access. He also might then have conferred with ecclesiastics, who would be far better acquainted with the institution, than any later persons could be. Perhaps the best and fairest conclusion, which we can draw, is, that the Marmyons re-built the Church and extended the College, previously commenced by Edgar.

¹ Itin., vol. iv., p. 89 b.

² Britannia.

Whatever may be the uncertainty regarding the founder, it is indubitable that the Church was rendered collegiate at a very early period. The first time we have yet found the dean and chapter mentioned, is in 1257. They then purchased from Philip de Marmyon, the advowson or right of presentation of the church of St. John the Baptist, at Middleton, in Warwickshire; which was afterwards served by a stipendary appointed by them. This they retained until the general dissolution.¹ They also possessed, it seems, the manor of Middleton; for, after its division between the three co-heiresses of Philip de Marmyon, a third part was held of the Church, in 1323, by Alexander de Frevile and Joan his wife, of the inheritance of the latter, by service of 2s. 2½d., and the third part of a half-penny.² In the inquisition, taken in 1266, of the extent of the royal manor of Wigginton and Tamworth, which we have previously named,³ it is said that the dean and canons received the profits of the fairs and markets belonging to the king, worth annually 2l. 10s., on the Staffordshire side of the town, and 50s., on the Warwickshire side.

The next mention of the Church is in the taxation of pope Nicholas IV., about the year 1291. The Church of St. Editha at Thamwurth, in the deanery of Thomwurth and Tuttebur, was then valued at fifty-five marks,—36l. 13s. 4d., the tenth part being five marks and a half,—3l. 13s. 4d.: also, it was stated that the church of St. John the Baptist, at Berkeswell, in Warwickshire, was valued at twenty marks per annum, over and above the yearly pension of one mark, which the collegiate Church of Tamworth received out of it. In what manner this payment was acquired, we do not know.

¹ Dugdale's Warwickshire. ² Inquis., 17 E. II. ³ Page 79.

The College consisted of a deanery and six prebends. These were, Amington, or the deanery; Syerscote; Wilnecote; Coton; Bonehill; Wigginton; and Comberford. The two latter were usually associated together, and often considered as forming but one prebend.

The deanery, at first, lay in the gift of the lords of the Castle. To it, Alexander de Frevile presented Walter de Chetwynd, on the 24th of October, 1304; and Hugh de Babbington, on the 15th of November, 1310.¹ But the next presentation, that of Henry de Cliff, on the 6th of January, 1316, was by Joan, wife of Thomas de Lodelow, and youngest daughter of Philip de Marmyon.² However, in 1328, we read that "*Magister Ricardus de Gloucestre habet literas Regis de presentatione ad decanatum de Tamworth, ratione terrarum et tenementorum quæ fuerunt Alexandri de Frevill defuncti.*"³ But it had returned to the same Joan in 1348; for it is then said that "*Hen. Hillary et Johanna uxor ejus habent advocaciones Decanatus de Tamworth et prebendarium ejusdem ecclesiæ collegiatæ.*"⁴ After the death of this lady, without surviving male issue, the disposal of the deanery seems to have rested entirely in the crown.

We here give the names of the deans after Henry de Cliff.⁵

1320 Isembard de Longeville.

1328 Richard de Gloucester.

1329 Robert de Chelcardo.

1347 Baldwin de Whitney. He was presented to the prebend of Bishopshull in Lichfield-cathedral, on the 18th of July, 1349.⁶

¹ See Appendix :—Note 21. ² Lichfield records. ³ Tanner's Not. Monast.

⁴ Ib. ⁵ Monast. Anglic.:—edit. 1830. ⁶ Harwood's Hist. of Lich.

- 1369 Walter Pryde.
- 1372 Reginald de Halton or Hilton.
- 1389 Thomas Ibery or Ivorye.
- 1391 William Cotingham.
- 1391 John Massingham.
- 1399 John Bernard.
- 1403 William Pountefreyt. (Feb. 10.)
- 1429 Clement Denston.
- 1430 Thomas Rudborne.
- 1432 John Delabere. (Feb. 1.)
- 1434 William Newport. (May 13.) He held the prebend of Longdon, in Lichfield-cathedral.¹
- 1436 John Bate.
- 1476 Ralph Ferrers, living 1496.

From what has been already said, it may be seen that the gift of the prebends was in the same hands as that of the deanery. But for the time, Wilnecote and Coton were at the disposal of Ralph Basset, lord of Drayton. To the former he presented Simon de Wycford, in 1298; and to the latter, Roger de Cloun-
ginford, on the 22nd of June, 1301. But, on the 3rd of September, 1342, Baldwin de Frevile preferred Thomas de Whitney to Wilnecote; as the king did John de Kendall, on the 18th of July, 1343, and Henry de Ingleby, on the 17th of September, four years subsequently. To Syerscote, Richard de Tettebury was presented by Thomas de Lodelow, on the 12th of October, 1303; and Hugh de Hopwas, by the king, in 1349.² This latter ecclesiastic was a native of Tamworth, and rose to some dignity in the church. On the 8th of August, 1353, he was inducted into the living of Clifton-Campville, at the presentation of sir Richard de

¹ Harwood's Hist. of Lich. ² Lichfield records. ³ See Appendix :—Note 22.

Stafford. He erected a chantry there, in 1361, for the spiritual welfare of his patron, Maud his wife, and Isabell his former wife.¹ In 1358, Hugh de Hopwas, was elected chancellor or vicar-general of the diocese; and, on the 20th of May, 1363, he was appointed prebendary of Curborough, in the Cathedral-church of Lichfield. He died in 1383.² To Wigginton and Comberford, Henry le Stoke de Solihull was preferred, on the 18th of June, 1311, by Ralph le Boteler. To the same prebends, Edward III. presented Thomas de Keynes, on the 28th of June, 1359.³ This clergyman was constituted by the king keeper of his park and forester in the bailiwick of Ascit, for which he was allowed the sum of 2*d.* a-day, during the term of his natural life. His decease took place in 1367.⁴ Concerning Coton, on the decease of Roger de Clounginford, there arose a dispute between lady Joan, widow of Alexander de Frevile, and Henry Hillary and Joan his wife. But by agreement, dated at Middleton, on the Saturday after the feast of St. Hillary, 1339, it was settled, that lady Joan or her heirs should present in this first vacancy and in the one ensuing; Henry Hillary and his wife, in the third; lady Joan in the fourth and fifth vacancies; and Henry and Joan in the sixth; and then they were to exercise the right alternately. To this agreement were witnesses, master Edmund de Hereford, master Roger Hillary,⁵ master Roger Quili, John de Lee, John de Longdon, and others.⁶ In conformity with this arrangement, lady Joan nominated Robert de Whitney, on the 25th of January next ensuing.⁷ Of the prebend of Bonehill, we have not as

¹ Shaw's Staffordsh. ² Harwood's Hist. of Lich. ³ Lichfield records. Not. Monst.

⁴ Erdeswick:—edit. 1844. ⁵ In the court-rolls, 1312, he is mentioned as being "Parson of the church of Alrewich." ⁶ Indenture, 12 E. III. ⁷ Lichfield records.

yet seen any record previous to nearly the end of the 15th century. The presentations to all the prebends seem to have wholly fallen to the crown, at the same time as the deanery. The Church is very frequently mentioned as one of the king's free chapels from 1359,¹ to 1527. In this latter year, Henry VIII., then patron of the College, by letters-patent dated at Calais, on the 14th of July, granted to John Golde, clerk, almoner of Mary, queen of France, the canonry and prebend here, then vacant by the death of Brian Darley.²

Each of the canons had his substitute or vicar at Tamworth to officiate in his place, and perform his duties. It would appear that a dispute of considerable length arose between the vicars and the bailiffs, relating most probably to the local courts. On one occasion, the matter proceeded so far that a bye-law was framed of a very singular and rather arbitrary nature. It was ordained that no person should invite any vicar to his table, under penalty of 6s. 8d. This amusing order, infringing so greatly on the rights of hospitality, was framed on the 23rd of May, 1429.³ We think it questionable if it were ever carried into effect: no instance of its enforcement has been placed on record. Some years later, the king's writ, bearing date on the 7th of November, 1458, was directed to the bailiffs, ordering that, as according to the statutes of the realm, ecclesiastical persons were not compelled to come to views of frank-pledge unless special cause should require their appearance, they should exempt the vicars of the royal free-chapel of Tamworth from those courts. The vicars, at that time, were William Bolton, David Duffield,

1 Erdeswick. 2 Rymer's Foedera. 3 Court-rolls, 7 H. VI.

Richard Sturgeys, Thomas Allen, Thomas Hull, and Richard Tatenhill.¹

The revenues of the Church at Tamworth were not at any time very extensive. In fact, its endowment was so small that, alone, it must have been insufficient to support the priesthood in a condition much above absolute poverty. The increase of property, during the space of about 150 years, did not much exceed the annual income of 20*l*. Hence it is evident that the maintenance of the dignity of the ecclesiastics here, the continuance of the magnificent solemnities of public worship, and the erection of the noble and splendid edifice, were due to the voluntary offerings of the faithful, occasional gifts dictated by the piety of private persons, or to the ardour of the clergy themselves. A few of the donations made by individuals to this Church, we have met with.

In 1445, Nicholas Pydde gave to John, archbishop of Canterbury, and chancellor of England; to John Bate, dean of the Church, Robert Monter, William Pydde, John Lynton, William Rouse, Thomas Ashcombe, and John Longdon, clerks, and their successors, two burgages situated in Lichfield-street, for their common benefit.²

A person of the name of Jekes, in the reign of Henry VI., obtained leave from the king to give a messuage and garden in the town, to be converted into a habitation for the use of the priests, who should officiate as vicars here.³

Sir Thomas Ferrers, knight, by deed, dated on the 10th of February, 1495, for the health of his soul, and the souls of Ann his wife, and of John his son and

¹ Court rolls, 37 H. VI. ² *Ib.*, 23 H. VI. ³ Old notes of the College-house.

heir, and their progenitors, gave to the perpetual vicars of the Church, an annuity of 26s. 8d. The payment was directed to be made out of a water-mill called Astford-mill, two pastures, and all the other lands at Claverley, in Shropshire, which sir Thomas Ferrers had lately acquired of the gift of Henry Colle. The donation was made on condition that the vicars and their successors should, every week, say three masses of requiem, and, on the anniversary of his death, celebrate for ever solemn obsequies for the repose of the souls of himself, his wife, his son, and their ancestors. The vicars were to receive the payment in equal portions on the feasts of Annunciation of the blessed Virgin Mary, of St. John the Baptist, of St. Michael, and of St. Andrew the Apostle. To the deed, were witnesses, Ralph Lawford, and Thomas Gresley, knights; John Ferrers, heir of sir Thomas; William Ferrers; John Alcock, rector of Ibstock; John Blount; James Kayley; and others.

The last grant, which we have to name, is that of lady Dorothy, widow of sir John Ferrers, knight. By indenture, dated on the 20th of October, 1530, she made a feoffment to eight persons of the town and neighbourhood and their sons with their assigns for ever, of certain lands and tenements in Tamworth and Wigginton, for the uses which she should afterwards direct. Soon afterwards, she ordered that the bailiffs of the town should receive all the rents of the possessions, and, on the 11th of July, cause an obit to be kept in the Church, with the whole choir. On the evening of this day, solemn dirge was to be sung, and mass of requiem on the next morning, specially for the soul of

¹ Attached to this deed, a part of the common seal of the Church remains, but no sufficient to make out the design. There may still be decyphered upon it.....LUM COMMUNE EC.....

S. Editha's Church, Tamworth.



Common Seal.

(Time of Henry VIII.)

Published by J. Thompson, Tamworth, 1845.

sir John Ferrers, her late husband; her own soul; the souls of William Harper and Margaret his wife, her father and mother; and those of all Christians. After directing the payment of fees to several persons taking part in the services, and particularly for the vicars to pray for the persons above named in their beadroll, lady Dorothy Ferrers directed that the Grey-friars at Lichfield should sing dirge and mass of requiem, at the same time of the year as at Tamworth, for ever. And each friar there, being a priest, was, on the same day or at least within a week after this time, to say one mass of requiem. Also the friars at Atherstone were yearly to sing dirge and mass of requiem, in their convent. And farther, if it should happen that there were three or four soul-priests at Tamworth during the celebration of the obit, each should receive a small payment, if he should assist. And, finally, all surplus of rents was to be employed in the maintenance and improvement of the property.¹

Henry VIII., in 1534, assumed to himself the title of supreme head of the church of England. Then by a statute of parliament, the first-fruits of all benefices, and spiritual dignities and the tenths of the annual income of all livings, were annexed to the crown for ever.² Consequent upon this act, a valuation of all ecclesiastical foundations throughout the kingdom was made by royal command, in the same year. The account given of Tamworth Church is as follows.

“Valuation of the Spiritualities and Temporalities of the College of Tamworth.

The dean and canons of the collegiate Church afore-

¹ See Appendix :—Note 23.

² Lingard.

said, have together in common lands and tenements, called the Glebe of the prebends thereto, the yearly value of 4*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* Of the true portion of which rents assigned to each canon, full mention is made under the name of the canons below described: to wit.

THE DEANERY.

Master Thomas Parker, the dean there,

Has and perceives yearly to himself
and his successors, of the lands of the
Glebe aforesaid, 13*s.* 4*d.*

And of tithes, oblations, and other spi-
ritual emoluments,.... 20*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

The tenth part thereof, 42*s.* 21*l.*

SYERSCOTE.

Master John Fysher, prebendary of the prebend of Syerscote,

Has and perceives yearly to himself
and his successors, of the lands of the
Glebe aforesaid, 24*s.* 3*d.*

And of tithes, oblations, and other spi-
ritual emoluments,.... 42*s.* 5*d.*

The tenth part thereof, 6*s.* 8*d.* 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

WILNECOTE.

M. Richard Pygot, prebendary of the prebend of Wilnecote,

Has and perceives yearly to himself
and his successors, of the lands of the
Glebe aforesaid, 13*s.* 11*d.*

And of tithes, oblations, and other spi-
ritual emoluments,.... 7*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*

The tenth part thereof, 16*s.* 8*l.*

COTON.

Master Thomas Hall, prebendary of the prebend of Coton,

Has and perceives yearly to himself
and his successors, of the lands of the
Glebe aforesaid, 8s. 3d.

And of a yearly pension paid by mas-
ter Roger Dyngley, prebendary of Wig-
ginton, 40s.

And of tithes, oblations, and other
emoluments, 5*l.* 11s. 9d.

The tenth part thereof, 16s. 8*l.*

BONEHILL.

Master John Wylkoks, prebendary of the prebend of Bonehill,

Has and perceives in lands of the Glebe
aforesaid, 16s. 8d.

And of tithes and other spiritual emol-
uments, 6*l.* 2s. 4d.

The tenth part thereof, 14s. 7*l.*

WIGGINTON.

M. Roger Dyngley, prebendary of the prebend of Wigginton,

Has and perceives, in lands of the
Glebe aforesaid, 10s. 3d.

And of tithes, oblations, and other spi-
ritual gifts, over and above 40s. which
he yearly pays to master Thomas Hall,
prebendary of Coton, and his successors, 9*l.* 9s. 9d.

The tenth part thereof, 20s.¹ 10*l.*

The following is one of the numerous subsidies of
the clergy at Tamworth, paid, in common with other
churches, to the rapacious sovereign.

¹ Valor Ecclesiasticus, 26 H. VIII. :—Translated.

"Mr. Thomas Perker, dean, paid *xxxs.*

Mr. John Fyssher, prebendary of Syrescote, *iijs. jd. ob.*

Mr. William Westcote, prebendary of Wylnecote, *viijs.*

xd. ob.

Mr. Thomas Hall, prebendary of Cotton, *ixs. iiijd.*

Mr. John Wylcocks, prebendary of Bownel, *ixs. iiijd.*

Mr. Roger Dyngley, prebendary of Wygynton, *xs.*

Vicars choral and stipendaries:—

Mr. George Plackeney and eleven others, *vs. iiijd. each.*"¹

It is irrelative to our subject to speak of the alteration in the faith of this country, or of the political movements by which it was effected. It must suffice to state that, in the time of Edward VI., a total change of ecclesiastical discipline was completed, the liturgy altered, images removed from churches, the altars abandoned for tables, and in short the church of England established on those foundations, upon which it remains at the present day.

The College of the Church was, in accordance with a parliamentary statute, dissolved in 1547, and the whole of the property attached to it vested in the crown.² To each of the incumbents, a small stipend was assigned for life; and these pensions were enjoyed by the rejected dignitaries until 1553;³ when, in consequence of the accession of queen Mary to the throne, the ancient faith was restored, for a short time.

In 1548, Edward VI. issued a commission, dated on the 20th of June, directing sir Henry Mildmay, knight, and Robert Kelway, esq., to provide for the maintenance and continuance of preachers here. Accordingly, after

¹ Harl. MSS.:—Shaw's Staffordshire. The prebend of Comberford is not mentioned here or in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, because it was united with that of Wigginton.

² Old notes of the College-house.

³ Willis, vol. 2., p. 218.

they had made a visitation, they drew up an order on the 20th of July following, by which they ordained,—that the Church should be permitted to remain and serve as a parish-church;—that there should be appointed a preacher or vicar, and two assistant curates;—that the former should have an annual stipend of 20*l.*, and the latter 8*l.* each a year, payable by the receiver-general of the county of Stafford;—and lastly, that the preacher and curates should have for an habitation the house, which the vicars of the College had formerly enjoyed.

In exercise of her power, soon after her accession, Elizabeth nominated a vicar to this Church. On his cessation, in 1578, she appointed Roger Molde. The name of the first vicar, we have not discovered with certainty. But, on the 10th of April, 1578, there is recorded in the Parish register the burial of “John Wright, Sacerdos.” Three years subsequently, Elizabeth, by letters patent, dated on the 27th of October, 1581, in consideration that sir Henry Darcy, *knt.*, and Peter Ashton, *gent.*, had conceded to her the late monastery and the manor of Sawley, in Yorkshire, and on the humble petition of this Henry Darcy, granted to Edmund Downing and Peter Ashton, *inter alia*, all the late College of Tamworth, with its rights, members, liberties, and appurtenances, and the whole deanery, and all the prebends of Wigginton, Bonehill, Wilnecote, Coton, and Syerscote, with all their rights and members. And all houses, buildings, lands, glebes, meadows, pastures, commons, tithes, oblations, and emoluments, belonging to the College, deanery, or prebends, and the advowson, donation, free disposition, and right of patronage of the vicarage and Church of Tamworth. These

were to be held by Downing and Ashton, and their heirs and assigns in fee-farm, as of the manor of East Greenwich, by fealty alone in free soccage and not in capite or by military service. And they were to render annually 33*l.* 3*s.* 2½*d.* and 62*l.* 0*s.* 5½*d.* The latter sum was to be appropriated in the following manner. To the archdeacon of Tamworth, for synodals and procurations, 18*s.* 1*d.*; to the bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, as a perpetual pension, 22*s.* 6*d.*; to the vicar of Tamworth, for his stipend or salary, 20*l.*; to two curates here, for their stipends, 16*l.*; to the Schoolmaster of Tamworth, for his salary, 10*l.* 13*s.* 2½*d.*; and to the curate of Tatenhall, for his salary, 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* But the sum was to be paid into the hands of the receiver-general of the county, or into the Exchequer yearly, on the feast of St. Michael the Archangel only, and was to supercede all other services and demands whatever. But it was farther provided that if the stipends should be paid immediately to the archdeacon, bishop, and the rest, the acquittances of these parties shown to the auditor should be a sufficient warrant to him to discharge Downing and Ashton of the sums.¹

Edmund Downing and Peter Ashton, having thus acquired the College, deanery, and prebends, and the advowson and right of patronage of the vicarage and Church of Tamworth, by deed dated on the 21st of February, 1582-3, granted the whole property, in fee simple, to John Morley and Roger Rant.²

In the course of the ensuing year,—1583,—John Morley, and Roger Rant who was his servant, sold the whole out in parcels to different persons. By indenture

¹ Letters-patent, 23 Eliz.

² The rest of the history of the Church is derived from Shaw's Staffordshire, except in those cases where we have given other authorities.

dated on the 10th of May, they granted, in fee-simple, the deanery or prebend of Amington, and that of Wigginton, with the tithes thereunto belonging, and the advowson and right of patronage of the vicarage and Church, to Thomas Repington, esq. The prebend of Bonehill was sold to William Necton; that of Wilnecote, to George Corbin; Coton, to Alexander Morley; and Syerscote, to John Breton.

But queen Elizabeth, by her second charter to the town, dated in 1588, some years after the grant of the advowson and right of patronage to Downing and Ashton, gave to the corporate body, in their capacity of Guardians and Governors of the Free Grammar School, the nomination and appointment of a preacher of the word of God in the Church, and also of two ministers, so often as they should be required, subject, however, to the consent of the high-steward of the borough. And they were to receive the annual stipends of 20*l.* for the preacher, and 16*l.* for the curates, payable by the receiver-general of the county, in equal portions, at four terms in the year. And lastly, they were to hold a house and garden in Tamworth, that the late vicars of the College once inhabited, which was to serve for ever as an habitation for the ministers or curates.¹

This singular grant to the guardians of the School of power to nominate preachers and ministers, in opposition to the right previously sold to Downing and Ashton, caused some difference between the corporation and the occupiers of the prebends, as we have mentioned in speaking of the fairs. But between the guardians and the Repington family there were very great and long

¹ Charter, 30 Eliz.

continued disputes, concerning the right of presentation. No legal decision was made, however, between the parties, until nearly the close of the last century. After some time, a compromise was entered into; and it was agreed that, as in the grant to Downing and Ashton, there was only specified "*advocationem, donationem, liberam dispositionem, et jus patronus Vicariæ et Ecclesiæ de Tamworth,*" and as the charter had expressly the word "*curates,*" the Repingtons should enjoy the nomination of the vicars, and the guardians, of the two assistant ministers.¹

Nor was the difference between the Repingtons and the corporation, the only one that occurred. Katherine, duchess of Lennox, grand-daughter and heiress of sir Henry Darcy, claimed the patronage of the Church held by the former, the College-house assigned to the latter, and the whole property formerly given to Downing and Ashton, patentees in trust for sir Henry Darcy. In 1630, she granted her alleged right of presentation, and the College-house to Thomas Gore. He, after commencing two suits to substantiate his claim, one in the Exchequer, and the other at common law, sold his title to Mr. Comberford, about 1639. This last gentleman, on the 3rd of February, two years afterwards, sealed a lease of the house upon the threshold to Augustine Fielding; and on the 4th of May, 1642, served Thomas Blake, who then held the place both of vicar and curates, with a process out of the king's bench, for occupying the dwelling in defiance of him. Mr. Comberford eventually lost his claim.²

We quit the account of these tedious disputes, for a time, to pursue our history in regular order.

1 MS., temp. Car. 1. 2 Old notes of the College-house. Corporation records.

Thomas Repington acquired, as we have previously shown, more especially the deanery and deanery-house and the advowson and right of patronage of the vicarage and Church of Tamworth. By deed of settlement, dated on the 2nd of November, 1603, upon the marriage of John Repington his son with Margaret Littleton, he covenanted that he and his heirs should stand seized of the premises therein mentioned, of which the deanery and deanery-house, and the advowson and right of patronage of the vicarage and Church, as belonging to and usually



The family of Repington was one of great antiquity, originally seated in the county of Lincoln.

SIMON DE REPINGTON, living in the time of William I or II, was father of

- I. RACHAEL, m. George Poyntz.
- II. RALPH, his successor.
- III. GERVAISE, m. a dau. of Bovile.
- IV. ANTHONY, m. Affabel, dau. of sir Robert de Worsley, knight.

RALPH DE REPINGTON, of the Leach, temp. Hen. I, succeeded his father. He m. Audry, dau. of John le Fearne, and had issue,

- I. ROGER, continuator of the family.
- II. HENRY, m. Joan dau. of sir John de Baskerville, knight.
- III. JOHN, m. 1135, Judith, dau. of Thomas Hacket, co. of Lincoln.

ROGER DE REPINGTON, of Repington, in Lincolnshire, signalized himself in the struggles between Stephen and Maud for the throne; and was appointed cofferer to the Empress. He m. Susanna, dau. of Richard Scrope, of Bolton, in Yorksh.; and had issue,

- I. SIR RICHARD, of whom presently.
- II. JONAS, m. Mary dau. of John Cheek.
- III. JOHN, m. Joyce, dau. of John de Longton.
- IV. ANNABELL, m. John de Rochford.
- V. RACHAEL, m. Christoph. de Staunton.

SIR RICHARD DE REPINGTON, knight, 20 H. II. He was slain in a joust at Woodstock, in 1178; being then seized of Frankingham, Dalderby, and Thorp-in-the-Willows, co. Lincoln. He m. 1st. Marian, dau. of sir John Lowther, knight; 2nd. Alice, dau. of John Chaworth. By his first wife he had,

- I. THOMAS, his successor.
- II. MATTHEW.
- III. JOHN.
- IV. GREZAGON, m. to Henry de Sutton.
- V. JUDITH, m. to John Mounson.

THOMAS REPINGTON, a soldier of note, fought in the great and glorious battle of Poitiers. But being distressed and taken prisoner by the French, he was compelled to sell his lands in Lincolnshire, anno 1367, to sir Henry Marmyon, knight. He was bur. in the monastery of Sempringham. By Ann, his wife, dau. of John Peyton, he had issue,

- I. ADAM, who succeeded.
- II. RALPH, m. Audry, dau. of sir John Reppes, knight.

enjoyed with them, were part, to the use of this John and Margaret, and their heirs male, in special tail, with remainder to Humphry Repington, his second son, in tail mail, with divers remainders over.

III. THOMAS, m. Juliana, dau. of William Hulston.

IV. ROSE, m. 1st. John Blenkinsop; 2nd. Anthony Strelly, of Beach.

ADAM REPINGTON, was Justice of the Peace and Custos Rotulorum of the hundreds of Kesteven and Holland, co. of Lincoln, and standard bearer to Richard II. This Adam, in 1397, 21 Rich. II., took the abbot of Crowland prisoner; for which service he was rewarded by Robert viscount Fitzwalter, general of the field, with a demi Antelope Gules for his crest, maned, bearded, tusked, and horned Or and billeted Argent sans nombre, to be borne by him and his posterity for ever. He had the wardship of Marian, dau. and h. of John Lambard. He m. this lady; and in her right had lands in Long-Sutton, co. of Lincoln, where she was *bur.* in 1399. He had issue,

I. A DAU. m. sir John Camoys, knt.

II. ALBREDA, m. Adam Risby, co. Derby.

III. WILLIAM, son and heir.

WILLIAM REPINGTON. In 1422, he purchased of sir William Clinton, knight, a messuage; 500 acres of land; 100 of meadow; 200 of pasture, at Amington; and the right of fishing in the river Anker. This acquirement brought the family of Repington into connexion with Tamworth. He was auditor to Richard Nevill, earl of Warwick; and dying in 1451, left by Alice, dau. of Helby Acton, of Howleing, in Salop,

I. WILLIAM, successor.

II. JOHN m. Mary dau. of Rog. Blewitt.

III. CHRISTOPHER, m. Emma, dau. of sir Piers Vavasour.

IV. EMMA, m. William Engeberd.

V. ALICE, m. John Marshall.

WILLIAM REPINGTON, m. Emma, dau. of John Thurstan of Great Waddingfield, Suffolk; and by her had two daughters, and one son,

JOHN REPINGTON, who m. Coletta, dau. and coh. of John Gold-

smith, of Goldsmith-Grange, Leicestersh. He *d.* in 1472, leaving

I. WILLIAM, his successor.

II. ROBERT, m. Jane, dau. of John Jauncy, of Fotheringay, Northamptonshire.

III. JAMES, m. Ann, dau. of sir William Calthorpe.

IV. RICHARD, m. Eleanor, dau. of Rob. Fateshull.

WILLIAM REPINGTON, esq. of Amington, m. Juliana, dau. of William Stokes, of Foleshill, in the co. of Coventry. He *d.* on January 30th, 1543, and lies *bur.*, with his wife, in Tamworth-Church. He left

I. FRANCIS, his successor.

II.-III. PHILIP and HUMPHRY, *d.* young.

IV. MARY, m. John Swynfen, of Swynfen-hall, co. of Stafford.

V. ANN, m. Thomas Corbin.

VI. EDITHA, took the vows and habit of the order of St. Benedict, and became a nun at Polesworth.

VII. KATHERINE, m. Robert Burton, of Lindley.

FRANCIS REPINGTON, esq., in 1537, obtained from Edward, lord Clinton, a grant of the remainder of his lands at Amington, and *d.* seized of the manor in 1551. By Maud, dau. of Richard Cotton, of Hamstall-Ridware, he had issue,

I. THOMAS, named presently.

II. WILLIAM.

III. RICHARD, a barrister, *bur.* at Tamworth, July 1st, 1611. *s. p.*

IV.-V.-VI. JOHN, EDWARD, HUMPHREY, unmarried.

VII. MARIA, m. 1st. Kendal, of Smithsby, 2nd. Clement Fisher, of Packington Magna, co. of Warwick, M. P. for Tamworth. He died October 23, 1619. His grand-daughter, sister of Clement Fisher, of Wilnecote, m. Thomas, son of John Wightwick, sergeant at law, another M. P. of this town, and founder of a charity here.

THOMAS REPINGTON, esq. He purchased, in 1583, the deanery and advowson and right of presentation to the vicarage and Church of Tamworth; and subsequently entailed it, with his estate at Amington, upon his heirs male. He *d.* 14th Dec., 1615, and was *bur.* at Tamworth. His wife Frances, dau. of William

Upon the resignation of the vicarage by Roger Molde, John Repington and Margaret his wife, on the 28th of August, 1610, nominated and appointed Samuel Hodgkinson to be vicar of Tamworth for life; and he was to preach there at least once a fortnight. This John, then sir John Repington, died in January, 1625-6, leaving a son and heir of the same name.

The second sir John Repington, succeeding by virtue

Stamford, one of the justices of the common pleas, was also *bur.* here, June 2, 1598. They left issue,

I. JOHN, successor.

II. MARY, *bapt.* at Tamworth, July 16, 1567; *bur.* April 7, 1571.

III. HUMPHRY.

IV. WILLIAM, *bapt.* at Tamworth, Aug. 18, *bur.* Feb. 13, 1570.

SIR JOHN REPINGTON, knight, *m.* I James I., Margaret, dau. of sir Edward Littleton, knight, of Pillaton, co. of Stafford. This sir John bought an estate at Atherstone, with the manor, and built a house called the hall there. He *d.* January 23rd, 1625, and was succeeded by his only son.

SIR JOHN REPINGTON, knight, *m.* Elizabeth, dau. of sir Edward Sebright, of Besford, co. of Worcester, baronet. He *d.* in June, 1662, and was succeeded by his son,

SEBRIGHT REPINGTON, who *m.* 1st. Catharine, dau. of sir Thomas Burdett, baronet, of Formark, co. of Derby; by whom he had one son, Edward. He *m.* 2nd. Mary, dau. of Sherington Talbot, of Lacock, co. of Wilts. He *d.* in 1698, and was *bur.* at Tamworth. By his second marriage, he had a son, Gilbert, (of whom hereafter) and many other children.

EDWARD REPINGTON, succeeded his father. He *m.* Anne, dau. of William Basset, of Claverton, co. of Somerset, by whom he had two daughters, who *d. s. p.* He *d.* Feb. 23, 1734, and was *bur.* in Amington-chapel.

GILBERT REPINGTON, esq., of Amington-Woodhouse and London,

succeeded his half brother Edward. He *m.* Jane, 9th dau. of sir Thomas Vernon, knight, of London. He *d.* in Feb., 1738, and was *bur.* at Tamworth. He had issue,

I. SEBRIGHT, *d.* young.

II. EDWARD, of whom presently.

III. JOHN, *d. s. p.*

IV. GILBERT, a clergyman, *bur.* Sept. 3rd, 1749.

V. CHARLES, named presently.

VI. ANN-CAROLINE, *bur.* Mar. 30, 1731.

VII. ELIZABETH, *d.* an infant.

EDWARD REPINGTON, esq., a major in the militia, succeeded his father Gilbert. He *m.* Maria, dau. of Theophilus Levett, esq.; and *d.* in 1759, *s. p.* He was succeeded by his brother,

CHARLES REPINGTON, of Amington-hall, a captain in the marines. He *m.* Matilda, dau. and coh.,—with her sister Annabella, who *m.* general William à Court,—of Tho. Vernon, esq., of Twickenham-park. He *d.* December 8th, 1764, leaving a dau. BARBARA, who *d.* at Stoney-Stratford, Bucks, March 15th, 1775, aged 22, *unm.*, and a son and heir,

CHARLES EDWARD REPINGTON, esq., of Amington-hall, *b.* October 26th, 1755. He was magistrate and deputy-lieutenant for the co. of Warwick. He *m.* June 20th, 1805, Catharine Jesse, eldest dau. of Henry Fane Cholmley, esq., of Whitby and Howsham, co. of York; but had no issue. He *d.* June 27th, 1837. By his will he passed his Amington estate to his cousin, Edward Henry à Court, a captain in the Royal Navy; reserving an interest in it to his widow during the remainder of her life.

of the entail to the advowson and right of patronage, obtained from Charles I. a confirmation of the gift of queen Elizabeth to Edmund Downing and Peter Ashton.¹ Upon the cessation of Hodgkinson, in 1629, he appointed, on the 12th of November, the rev. Thomas Blake to the vicarage for his life. To this clergyman, was also given by the guardians of the School, the office of the curates, so that he became both vicar and perpetual curate, and resided in the College-house.² He was a divine of some celebrity, and an active partizan of the puritans, in the civil war. He died in June, 1657; and thereupon sir John Repington, on the 23rd of November following, appointed Samuel Langley, M. A., to be vicar, provided that he should in person exercise the duties and preach in the Church once every Lord's day at least, unless some lawful occasion should hinder him. Three days previously, the bailiffs and capital burgesses had elected him to the offices of preacher, minister, and curates of the Church.³ This two-fold election of each clergyman continued until the final decision of the matter between the corporation and Repingtons: it was mainly occasioned by the scanty endowment of the Church. The rev. S. Langley did not become resident in the town until the 1st of July following.⁴ He is mentioned in the most honourable terms, in the Memoirs of William Whiston, a divine well known for his Arian opinions.

Sir John Repington died in 1662, leaving a son and heir, Sebright. Upon the resignation of Samuel Langley in this year, Sebright Repington, on the 10th of November, nominated Ralph Astle, on condition that

1 Letters patent dated 11 Nov. 16 Car. 1.,—1640. 2 Corporation records.

3 Indenture, 1657.

4 Parish register.

he should exercise the function in person, and preach at least every fortnight, unless some unavoidable hindrance should occur.¹ This minister did not remain very long here; for on the 16th of December, in the following year, he surrendered the cure of Tamworth. Thereupon, Sebright Repington, on the ensuing day, re-appointed Samuel Langley to the place of vicar, upon the same terms as his predecessor had enjoyed it. He continued incumbent for nearly thirty-one years; and died in 1693-4. Sebright Repington, on the 19th of June following,—1694,—nominated Samuel Collins. And on the 1st of August, according to usage, the bailiffs and commonalty made him a grant of the two curates' places; which the high-steward confirmed.²

The rev. S. Collins, who from 1705 held the prebend of Gaia-minor in Lichfield-cathedral, died in 1710, at Tamworth. Edward Repington, having succeeded his father Sebright, then exercised his right as patron in favour of the rev. George Antrobus, whose appointment was dated on the 8th of January. He continued sole incumbent, receiving the stipends of the vicar and curates, with all other payments and benefactions given by several persons, at different times, after the dissolution of the College: and whilst he continued here, he inhabited the house appropriated to the minister. On his death, in 1724, Edward Repington bestowed the vicarage, the 29th of December, upon the rev. Robert Wilson, who retained the living on the same terms as those whom he had succeeded.

Edward Repington left no male issue. Therefore, the advowson and right of patronage of the vicarage

1 Indenture, 1662.

2 Corporation records.

and Church of Tamworth passed, in 1734, to Gilbert Repington, his half-brother. The latter died in 1738, and was succeeded by his eldest son Edward.

This last mentioned Edward Repington had no issue; and his brother Charles, being his heir, became in 1759 seized of all the premises under the entail created by the deed of settlement. The difference existing in respect to the right of presentation to the Church, originating in the double grant of Elizabeth, had been suffered very nearly to subside. But, when a vacancy was expected from the indisposition of Mr. Wilson, the dispute was renewed with great violence. On the 13th of March, 1758, the corporation, apprehending that Edward Repington, under a plea of a prior right legally vested in him, intended to deprive them of power to present, ordered that the bailiffs should immediately cause a caveat to be entered in the consistory of bishop's court to prevent any presentation from being entered there under his "pretended claim," in order that the right, on the decease of the incumbent, might be brought to a legal determination. On the 1st of December, in the same year, immediately after the death of Mr. Wilson, the corporation elected Simon Collins, "as preacher and minister or curates," with all profits and stipends belonging to the offices: this appointment they confirmed on the 5th of January ensuing.¹

Charles Repington, after a short time, claimed his right. By indenture, dated on the 5th of May, 1759, reciting, amongst other things, that the vicarage or created vicarage, with the perpetual curacy of Tamworth, had become void by the death of Robert Wilson, he

¹ Corporation records.

granted to William Sawrey, the vicarage with the curacy, and appointed him to be vicar of the vicarage, and curate of the curacy, for his natural life, upon the terms that he should reside at Tamworth, and preach in the Church, at least once a fortnight.

The rev. S. Collins refused to surrender the living to the new incumbent. His opponent, therefore, commenced legal proceedings against him and the guardians of the School who had presented him to the Church. A verdict was given at the summer sessions at Stafford, in 1761, in favour of the Repington family, and to the total exclusion of the corporation. And Mr. Collins was compelled to resign the incumbency in October of that year. Mr. Sawrey, who was also rector of Elford, in Staffordshire, held the Church until 1793.

Charles Repington, esq., dying on the 8th of December, 1764, was succeeded by his only son, Charles Edward Repington. He, on the death of the last incumbent, presented the rev. Michael Baxter to the Church, both as vicar and perpetual curate. This clergyman continued here only two years; for his decease took place in 1795. Thereupon, Mr. Repington, in the same manner, presented the rev. Francis Blick.

Charles Edward Repington, esq., died the 27th of June, 1837; and, as he had no issue, his family became extinct. By his will, he bequeathed his estates, with the advowson and right of patronage of the vicarage and Church of Tamworth, to captain Edward Henry à Court, R. N., brother of William, lord Heytesbury. His connexion with the Repingtons arose from his grand-mother being sister of Mr. Repington's mother.

The rev. F. Blick was rector of Walton-with-Rolleston, in Staffordshire; and also of Wisseth, in Suffolk.

He, besides, held the stall of *Pipa-parva*, in Lichfield-cathedral. He died upon the 3rd of April, 1842, at the age of eighty-seven years, after he had been the vicar of the Church for nearly half a century. Thereupon, Captain à Court presented the rev. Robert Chapman Savage, according to the customary form, both to the vicarage and perpetual curacy. Mr. Savage is the present incumbent.¹

For some time, the living was considered only as a perpetual curacy; but a decision of the House of Lords, towards the close of the last century, declared it to be a vicarage.



This family is of Norman extraction, from which descended

PIERCE à COURT, esq., of Ivy Church, in the co of Wilts, who in 1722, was parliamentary representative for Heytesbury. He had, amongst other issue,

GENERAL WILLIAM à COURT. He was colonel of the eleventh regiment of foot; and member of par-

liament for Heytesbury. He assumed the additional surname of *Ashe*, according to the direction of the will of his great uncle Edward *Ashe*, esq., of Heytesbury. He m. 22nd February, 1746, Annabella, dau. and coheir-ess—with her sister Matilda, wife of capt. Charles Repington, of Amington,—of Thomas Vernon, esq., of Twickenham-park. By this lady, who d. 1761, he had an only son,

WILLIAM PIERCE ASHE à COURT, esq., b. in 1747. He sat as M. P. for Heytesbury: and, on the 4th of July, 1795, was created a baronet. He m. first, Catharine, dau. of lieutenant John Bradford, who d. s. p. He m. secondly, 30th October, 1777, Letitia, dau. of Henry Windham, esq., of Salisbury, who d. in 1821. By her he had,

1. WILLIAM, b. 11th July, 1779. He succeeded to the baronetcy upon the decease of his father. On the 17th of January, 1828, he was created a baron of the realm by patent, with the title of *BARON HETTESBURY*. He became G. C. B.; one of the Privy council; and was for some years ambassador from England to the Imperial court of St. Petersburg.

¹ See Appendix —Note 24.

All the tithes, and even the Easter-offerings, are alienated. The value of the living is now about 100*l.* a year. The stipends of 36*l.*, the munificence of royalty settled upon the Church. By the procurement of lord Middleton, in 1707, 400*l.* was obtained of queen Ann's bounty. The interest of a similar sum is derived from several private benefactions; and 800*l.* was granted by parliament. This small endowment is evidently a very inadequate remuneration for the incessant exertions needed in this extensive and populous parish.

During the past year, he was appointed lord-lieutenant of Ireland,—a post which this nobleman still enjoys. He *m.* 3rd October, 1808, Rebecca, —born 1783,—2nd dau. of the hon. William Henry Bouverie, and grand-daughter of William, 1st earl of Radnor. By her, who *d.* on the 6th of October, 1844, he had

I. WILLIAM HENRY ASHE, *b.* 11th July, 1809, who assumed the surname of Holmes, on his marriage, 3rd October, 1833, with Elizabeth, eldest dau. and heiress of sir Leonard Worsley Holmes, bart., of Westover, Isle of Wight.

II. FREDERICK ASHE, *b.* at Naples, 15th December, 1818.

III. CECILIA-MARIA.

IV. EDWARD HENRY à COURT, *b.* 10th December, 1783; many years M. P. for the borough of Heytesbury, a captain in the Royal Navy; and, since 1837, M. P. for the borough of Tamworth. To him, Charles Edward Repington, esq., of Amington-

hall, bequeathed his estates; and he is now patron of the Church of Tamworth.

III. CHARLES ASHE à COURT, Major-general in the army, C. B. knight of the Guelphic and other distinguished foreign orders. He was *b.* 17th June, 1785; and *m.* 10th May, 1815, Mary, only dau. of Abraham Gibbs, esq. He has a son and a daughter,

I. CHARLES HENRY WYNDHAM.

II. ELIZABETH.

IV. LETITIA, *m.* the honourable William Eliot, earl of St. Germans. She *d.* 1810.

V. ANNABELLA, *m.*, 1805, Richard Beadon, esq., son of the right rev. Richard, bishop of Bath and Wells.

VI. MARIA, *m.* the honourable Philip Pleydell Bouverie, youngest son of the earl of Radnor.

VII. CAROLINE, *m.* 1818, Stewart Crawford, M. D., of Bath.

THE CHURCH:

CONTINUED.

DESCRIPTION.

The peculiar features of its architecture lead us to conclude that the Church of Tamworth was rebuilt very shortly after the Norman conquest; that it after exhibited the usual cruciform arrangement, and consisted of a Tower placed at the intersection of the Nave, Choir, and Transepts. The Nave possessed, at least, a south Aisle, with a Crypt beneath it. Whether the Choir had any Aisle, we cannot determine; but, upon the south side, was placed the Sacristy or vestry.

About two centuries and a half subsequently, the edifice underwent very extensive alterations. The Nave, Aisles, Transepts, and part of the Choir, were rebuilt; and some parts, perhaps, then first constructed; leaving only the Transept-arches, Tower, Crypt, portions of the Choir, and the Sacristy of the ancient structure. Shortly afterwards, a large Chantry-chapel was added, upon the north side of the Choir. It appears that it was erected—partly at least,—by one of the Comberfords, as a place of sepulture for the members of that family, and for the celebration of services for them. The Porches, about this time, were either rebuilt, or first erected.

Another great alteration was soon made by the erection of a large and massive Tower at the west end of the Nave. The one of Norman construction, if it had not been previously taken down, must now have been removed.

Hitherto the Church had retained acutely pointed roofs. The removal of these, the substitution of others of a much less pitch, and the addition of clarestory windows along the Nave and Choir, formed the next great change in the general construction of the edifice. The original form of the roofs, however, is still discernible by the weather-moulding on the east wall of the Tower. That of the Nave is partly external and partly internal to the roof; and those of the two Aisles are traced upon the corresponding north and south buttresses of the Tower. This alteration, as might be expected, required the reconstruction of all the windows situated in the east and west ends of the Church. In fact, the greater part of the gables have very evidently been rebuilt.

In these few preliminary remarks, it has been our intention merely to give an outline of the different changes that have been made in the general arrangement of the Church. Of the details, we must speak in describing its separate parts. The numerous alterations which have taken place since the accession of Elizabeth to the throne, might, perhaps, be thought to demand a separate notice. But as all have been merely modifications of the existing structure, they, too, will be more appropriately given in the ensuing description.

We shall speak first of the NAVE. It is very spacious and lofty. It is separated from the Aisle on each side by four large equilateral pointed arches, which are supported by piers formed of four semi-cylindrical shafts united together, up the face of each a square-edged fillet runs vertically; with corresponding plain moulded capitals and bases. The hood-mouldings are continuous over all the arches; and terminate at each end, generally in a plain corbel.

At some distance above the arches, a string-course or projecting line of masonry runs along the whole length of the Nave, at the base of the clerestory windows. In the clerestory, there are six windows upon each side. They are large and of good proportion; and their heads are formed of the four central depressed arch, commonly known by the name of the Tudor-arch, although adopted some time before the reign of Henry VII. As occurs invariably in all the windows throughout this edifice, the mouldings of the jambs and architrave are continuous, without the least interruption. The two mullions, at the spring of the arch, simply divide each into two curved branches, the inner of which cross: and both the principal and subordinate lights are foliated. The tracery, altogether, has rather a heavy appearance. Externally each window is surmounted by an ogee canopy, sparingly ornamented with crockets, and finished at the spring by simple angular returns.

Between each window, internally, stands a large shallow niche, with an ogee canopy ornamented with crockets and a final. Below it is provided with a semi-hexagonal moulded bracket, which once supported the image of some saint. Externally, betwixt each window, is a buttress, which rests upon the string-course below the window and terminates at the base of the parapet. It is divided into two stages by a plain sloped set-off. The upper stage is triangular, and, perhaps, was originally surmounted by a small pinnacle.

The clerestory was similar on both sides. But, during the summer of 1837, the south side underwent great alterations. It was totally refaced with stone, and the windows repaired with new mullions and tracery. But

the buttresses were omitted, and the canopies, being formed plain, were made continuous by their angular returns, except in every alternate one, where leaden pipes are placed to carry off the water from the gutter above. In all other particulars, the ancient design was observed.

The roof of the Nave is now nearly flat, but appears to have been of rather a higher pitch, even after the adoption of clerestory windows. It is divided into bays by seven horizontal tie-beams or girdlers faced with mouldings, which span the whole width and rest upon wall-plates. They were evidently once supported by wall-pieces, resting upon plain moulded semi-octagonal corbels placed at the summit of the niches between the windows. Some of the corbels are destroyed. Those at the ends stand alone, there being no niches before the first and beyond the last window. A ridge-piece runs along the whole roof. The slanting bays are divided into four parallelograms, and each of these into four squares in a similar manner. Bosses formed of leaves and flowers are placed at all the intersections.

The parapets of the Nave are plain, horizontal, and entirely of a modern construction.

In the year 1809, the Church underwent extensive alterations and repairs. The expenses, except those for repewing which were borne by the individual proprietors, were defrayed by a public subscription, amounting to 1,200*l*. To this sum, were added the profits arising from a musical festival, which was held in the Church on the 21st and 22nd of September, under the patronage of the marquis Townshend. The receipts and donations amounted to 1,660*l*., 11*s*., and

the expenses to 1,333*l.* 13*s.*, leaving a surplus of 326*l.* 18*s.* During the festival, the Church was illuminated with lamps wreathed about the pillars, and was ornamented with many devices.¹

At that time, a new entrance was made into the Nave. The north Porch was stopped, and the principal access to the interior formed through the Tower. The old organ-gallery supported by small pillars, which stood at the west end of the Nave, was removed, and a vestibule, with passages to the side-aisles, was built of brick, with lath and plaster decorations. It encroaches upon two thirds of the last bay of the Nave. Over this entrance into the Nave, the organ, with the addition of a powerful choir-instrument, was placed; with several pews. A flight of stairs upon each side of the vestibule leads to the organ, and to the western end of the gallery in the respective Aisle.

The floor of the Nave seems to have been raised considerably above the ancient one, perhaps between two and three feet. It was flagged throughout in 1809. This part of the Church was with the rest then fitted up with fresh pews. Such seats were, we believe, first placed in the building in the time of Elizabeth. They were removed in 1677, and new ones erected of every shape, from a triangular nook for a single person, to others large and spacious for the accomodation of a family. Some remains, bearing the date, may yet be seen in the neighbourhood of the town. The pulpit stood by the second pier on the north side, until 1793. It was then removed, and a new one, with a large reading-desk, erected against the first pier on the south side. There it at present remains.

¹ Parish Register.

The NORTH AISLE is separated from the Transept by a large equilateral arch, similar, in every particular, to the arches of the Nave. This has, however, been entirely blocked up, in order to support an extensive gallery. A modern square doorway leads into the Transept.

The four windows, on the north side, are large and well formed, with simple-pointed heads. The two plain mullions in each are completely debased, and the original design cannot now be traced. They merely arch round into each other at the spring; and a mullion arising in the middle, and, immediately diverging into two curved lines, divides the head into three subordinate lights. The dripstone externally and the hood-moulding within terminate by simple angular returns. Beneath each window exteriorly, a moulded string-course protects the wall below from the wet.

It is probable that these windows are referred to, in the following note, which occurs in the Parish-register. "1611. This yere, foure of the churchewindowes were repaired by one Cottrell, a Mason."

The large west window has a four-centred, depressed head. The mullions are also debased. There are five which simply curve into each other; and a large oval, with a curved line on each side, forms the tracery of the head. The dripstone, hood-moulding, and external string-course, were once similar to those on the north side.

Five buttresses strengthen the north wall of the Aisle externally, besides two placed at the north-west corner, at right angles with each other and the walls. Each of them is worked into two stages by a gabled set-off, formed laterally by five overlapping slabs. They terminate, in the same manner, immediately beneath the top of the parapet. The interval between the fourth

and fifth buttresses is occupied by the north Porch. The parapets are plain and modern.

The exterior of the north Aisle having in the lapse of time become much decayed, the buttresses west of the Porch were, in 1840, completely rebuilt, strictly according to the original design. The intervening wall, however, instead of being refaced with stone, was chiselled all over, and left in a rough state. In consequence of this treatment, all the mouldings of the jambs, architrave, and dripstone of the window have been entirely destroyed. The west wall and window underwent a similar operation.

The roof is somewhat similar to but flatter than that of the Nave; and has been painted a stone-colour. On each side of the six tie-beams, was sculptured the small figure of an angel; but nearly every one is now gone. The wall-pieces, with spandrells serving as braces, yet remain. Each was ornamented with the large demi-figure of an angel, habited in the alb, stole, and girdle; but, a few years ago, these fine pieces of carving were removed. How far the design of this roof corresponds with the original, we cannot tell; for, since the prevalence of the debased style of architecture, it has undergone repair. This is evident from the following inscription carved upon the second beam:—

THIS ROOF MADE NEW BY A BRIEF ANNO: DOM: 1731.
The floor of the Aisle is bricked; and is on the same level with the Nave. The Aisle, itself, is pewed throughout. A large gallery, supported by six small iron pillars, occupies its whole length, and extends over two thirds of its width. This was erected in 1793, and altered and embellished in 1809.

The NORTH PORCH is a stone structure, and like all

the rest of the Church has undergone very great alterations. Until 1809, it formed one of the entrances into the edifice; but it was then stopped, and converted into a family burying-place. The front has been stuccoed over and whitewashed. The entrance appears to have possessed an arch, or at least a canopy, of an ogree form; but it has been completely rounded off with plaster. Above this, and separated by a string-course, marking the two stories of which the Porch consists, stands, ornamented with crockets and finial, but now nearly filled up,

———“a little Gothic niche
Of nicest workmanship; that once had held
The sculptured image of some patron Saint,
Or the Blessed Virgin, looking down
On all who entered those religious doors.”—*Wordsworth*.

On each side, two circular apertures seem formerly to have given light to the muniment-room. The side-walls are quite plain.

The interior of the Porch has been plastered over and whitewashed, so that it presents very little deserving notice. The vaulted ceiling is elliptical in shape, and groined. The longitudinal, transverse, and diagonal ribs, spring, in each corner, from a round pier and plain moulded capital. Four thistle-flowers are placed as a boss, at the intersection of the diagonal ribs. The floor is modern, and raised very considerably above the ancient level. The inner or immediate entrance into the north Aisle has a simple-pointed arch; and the hood-moulding in the interior terminates in corbel heads. But this doorway has been built up as far as the spring of the arch, and the remainder converted into a window divided into three lights by simple curved mullions.

The room over the entrance was accessible only from the interior of the Aisle. An ogee headed doorway on the west side of the Porch, led to a small spiral staircase built in the thickness of the wall and buttress. The doorway in the Aisle had been built up for so long a time that the existence of the room had become completely forgotten. But, in 1840, when some of the buttresses of the Aisle were rebuilt, the staircase was opened on the outside. Nothing remarkable was found in the room: the floor was strewn with decayed holly, the remains of some christmas decorations. The original ceiling had been destroyed. The roof exteriorly is acutely pointed and slated. During the recent alterations, the staircase was entirely taken away, the buttress built up like the rest, and the wall made flat. Access to the room is, therefore, completely stopped.

In ancient times, the porch was not considered as a mere entrance into the consecrated edifice, but as an integral part of a church. Many different services took place in it. Parts of the ceremonies of baptism were there performed; and near it, just within the Aisle, stood the font. It was formerly considered unfitting that a person should pass into the interior of the temple, until cleansed from original sin by the sacred waters of baptism. In this Church, the font retained its primitive position until 1809, when it was removed into the south Transept. The rite of matrimony, the churching of women after childbirth, and the solemn commemoration of our Lord's passion in Holy-week, were also here performed. Porches also served, in some instances, as places for public assemblies of the parishioners. When we read of the election of officers, and payments of money "in the church," the porch must be understood, and not the

nave or aisles.¹ The room above the entrance was sometimes used as a school; sometimes as a muniment-room, for the preservation of records and deeds of gifts; and sometimes it was made the permanent residence of the sacristan. In the latter case, there was usually an aperture into the Aisle, from whence the edifice might be overlooked, to ascertain its safety. Although, in this Church, such an aperture with an ogee head existed, this appears to have constituted a muniment-room, because it was only lighted by the two very small openings in front, and was unprovided with a fireplace.

The SOUTH AISLE, in form and general arrangement, is very similar to that upon the opposite side, but is a little longer. It is separated from the south Transept by two small arches like those of the Nave, except that between the four semi-cylindrical shafts of the piers, a hollow moulding has been introduced. These arches have been built up to support the gallery, but a modern doorway leads into the Transept. The top of the southern arch has been removed, that a beam might be introduced to support the frame of the door into this gallery. Just above them, but at some distance below the roof, a moulded string-course runs along the wall.

The south windows correspond in number and form with those of the other Aisle. But the two mullions in each simply divide at the spring of the arch into two curved branches, the inner of which cross;

¹ Thus, on the 29th of April, 1374, it was directed at the court-leet, that the jury should meet each week at the Church of Tamworth, "*ad missam voc' le Brothur-mosse*," that is on the Monday, then to order and amend the laws, made by them at the great court: and none were to omit this, under penalty of *3s. 4d.* Perhaps the brother-mass was a mass celebrated for the benefit of members of the Holy Guild of St. George. Certainly it was attached to some general religious fraternity in the town.

and a plain transom or horizontal bar separates the principal lights into two. In the four-centred depressed window, at the west end, the three mullions divide but do not cross; and there is no transom. The hood-mouldings all terminate in corbel-heads. The west window is deficient of this appendage. Externally the dripstone of each of the windows is continued at its angular returns as a string-course along both walls, interrupted only by the buttresses. It passes, however, over the buttress at the angle.

There are six buttresses. That at the angle is placed diagonally, and is worked into four stages, by plain set-offs of two slabs. The head is gabled, and terminates below the parapet. The upper stage has had pilasters at the angles; and the string-course passes over the top of the second stage. The five buttresses on the south side are devoid of all ornament, are divided into six stages, by plain set-offs, and terminate a little below the base of the parapet. Between the fourth and fifth buttresses, once stood the south Porch. The doorway into the Church has been bricked up; but externally, as the wooden doors have been allowed to remain, the defect is somewhat concealed. The doorway is decorated, and has been very fine; but it is now so decayed, that the details can scarcely be traced. The surface of the wall, formerly occupied by the Porch, has been plastered over. In 1784, when this entrance was stopped and the Porch destroyed, the whole of the exterior of this Aisle was refaced with stone, the buttresses rebuilt, and the windows repaired, at the expense of the parishioners. Little of the original design, except the shape of the windows and the doorway, now remains.

The roof of the Aisle is similar to the one on the

other side of the Church, except that the six beams rest upon wall-plates alone, there being no wall-pieces. Upon the fifth beam, is the following inscription:—

: THOMAS :: PRAT : AND :: RICHARD : HAIRE :: CHVRCH :
WARDS :: WALTAR : CHADBYRN : 1671 :

The parapet is modern and plain; but at the west end it is embattled, and an attempt made at three square pinnacles at the centre and ends.

The floor is modern, having been bricked in 1809. In removing the old one, a quantity of the encaustic tiles, which had formed the ancient floor, was discovered. The greater part of them were placed in the Chancel, before the communion-table, but many were given away.

The internal arrangements are similar to those of the other Aisle. The gallery was, we believe, erected in the time of Charles II., enlarged in 1798, and beautified in 1809.

There can be little doubt that, as was usually the case, an altar dedicated to God in honour of the blessed Virgin Mary,¹ stood against the central pillar at the east end. It would be protected by open screening of wood, called percloses. In the north corner, yet stands a pedestal, with three faces, each ornamented with very fine panelling. It most probably bore the Virgin's image. Before being whitewashed, it was apparently handsomely painted.

Previously to the reign of Edward VI., there were at least five altars within the Church. We have found mention of those of the Holy Trinity, of the blessed Virgin Mary, St. George, St. Katherine, and St.

¹ Although commonly used for sake of brevity, the expression that a church or an altar was dedicated to any saint or angel is erroneous, and liable to give rise to misconception. Churches and altars were always dedicated to God, in honour of some holy being; whose intercessory prayers were more particularly desired.

Nicholas.¹ We can only point out the exact position of one, with any degree of certainty.

Beneath the south Aisle, and of a much more ancient date than that part of the Church, is situated the CRYPT. It is entered through a trap-door in the floor, close underneath the last window on the south side. Thence a very narrow passage of considerable length leads eastward. This is modern, and not so wide as the plain semicircular headed doorway, which forms the immediate entrance into the vault. The original access to it was unquestionably from the south Porch.

The Crypt was only lighted by two small square splayed apertures, on a level with the surface of the Church-yard. The one nearer the east end is now obstructed. This place was originally designed to be a chapel, wherein to perform the services for the dead; but, since the days of Elizabeth, it has been used as a receptacle for the bones accidentally disinterred in digging new graves in the Church-yard. The aspect is certainly now very dreary. One is led to exclaim in the modified language of a great poet,

— By the dim light, these relics of the dead
Have something ghastly, desolate, and dread.

But, in the mind of the Christian, other and brighter thoughts will arise; and, with the devout Prudentius, he may sing,

"Venient cito sæcula, cum jam
Socius calor ossa revisat,
Animataque sanguine vivo
Habitacula pristina gestet.

Quæ pigra cadavera pridem
Tumulis putrefacta jacebant,
Volucres rapiuntur in auras
Animas comitata priores,"—*Circa Essequias Defunctorum.*

¹ See Appendix:—Note 25.

The obscurity of the place is so great, that, for some time, the visitor, descending from full day-light into this damp and dismal abode of the dead, cannot discern its full proportions. It is built of rag-stone, vaulted, and groined. It extends to the east end of the south Aisle; and is divided into four compartments or bays by octagonal piers half sunk in the wall, with corresponding plain capitals and bases. These each support segmental groining ribs of a similar form, which pass longitudinally, transversely, and diagonally. The floor seems once to have been paved with encaustic tiles, from the fragments which we have found in the earth.



The bones are stacked up in very regular order, occupy the whole of the east end, and extend a little more than half along the vault. Many, according to a popular tradition, were brought from a field in the neighbourhood of the town, where some battle had once been fought. This we much doubt. They have for years past increased very slowly.

Concerning the east end of the Crypt, many vague reports have been current. It was believed that from it a long subterraneous passage communicated with the Castle. The Author and his brother, have, several times, explored the farthest recess of this dreary vault. By carefully piling aside the bones in advance, and creeping at full length along the narrow track thus formed between them and the roof, the eastern extremity was, at length reached. We found nothing there, except the remains of the ancient altar; the stone slab of which is gone. The bones, at the end, are so rotten, that they crumbled to pieces beneath our weight. We were unable to examine the floor at the base of the altar: there being no room to stow away the bones. In spite of all our efforts, they returned to our feet; and their dull clatter seemed a reproach to us, for disturbing their long and quiet repose in the sacred place.

Lost to the living,—surrounded by the relics of the countless dead, the horrors of whose prison-house were feebly revealed by the dim light of a solitary candle,—listening to the distant and almost stifled sound of a muffled bell—for there was a funeral in the Church above,—we seemed to have intruded into the abode of the “king of terrors.” Imagination carried us back to the time when these dry bones lived, and their silent tomb echoed the solemn services of their church. In vain the dead crowd prostrate round the ruined altar, from thence no requiem follows them, for them no more ascends the oft-repeated prayer.

On the wall of the second compartment from the west end, opposite the aperture for the admission of light, is a very ancient inscription. It is painted upon

plaster, and is now very much decayed. The following is a representation of it:—



The discovery of its meaning had frequently but vainly been attempted. The decyphering of the greater part of it fell to our lot. The first sentence is evidently a Latin verse.

“O D’NUS DIVES, NON OM’I TE’PORE VIVES:

FAC B’N’ DU’ VIVIS, POST MORTE’ VIV’E SI VIS.”

This may be thus rendered:—

O lord of wealth (and power),

Thou shalt not live for evermore;

Do well whilst life thou hast,

If thou would’st live when death is past.

The series of long letters underneath proved the greatest difficulty. But the words are clearly,

M’E JESU XPE,

a contracted form for “Miserere, Jesu Christe.” The warning that man shall not live for ever, the admonition to live well if he would attain life after death, and the short but fervent cry for mercy, form the most appropriate sentences, which the walls of so solemn an edifice could record.

It was contemplated by the late marquis Townshend, when he was earl of Leicester, to convert the Crypt into a family-tomb; but, there being no other place in which to deposit the bones, he was obliged to abandon the design. This vault narrowly escaped destruction during the repairs in 1809. It was found that, from the height of the roof, it would be necessary either to remove it or to leave a portion of the floor of the south Aisle elevated one step higher than the general level. After some debate, good council prevailed; and the latter alternative was adopted.

That part of the Church between the Transepts, where we stated that the Tower originally stood, is remarkable for the massiveness of the walls, in proportion to the rest of the Church. On either side, stands a large semicircular arch, thirteen feet in span, ornamented with indented and lozenge-shaped mouldings. It is supported by plain square piers; and the corresponding imposts or capitals give it a rather stilted appearance. These present altogether indications of the oldest form of the Norman style, and show that this part may be referred to about the reign of William Rufus. Up the edge of the wall facing the Nave, for nineteen feet, a moulding composed of the indented and zig-zag forms is found. It is much concealed by whitewash. In the remainder of the edge to the base of the clerestory, a modern pannel has been introduced. Upon the south side, behind the pulpit, this moulding is destroyed.

The clerestory and the roof are continuous with those of the Chancel. We shall describe them hereafter. The floor is similar to that of the Nave and Chancel, and lies upon the same level. This part of the Church

is pewed. The Norman arches have been partially built up, and a pew placed in each accessible by stairs in the north and south Transepts. Some iron rails, bearing the Royal Arms of England, stand at the west end, instead of the east, where the rood-loft formerly was placed.

The NORTH TRANSEPT hardly extends out so far as the Aisle, but is a little broader than the Chantry-chapel. It is separated from the latter by a large arch, similar to those between the south Aisle and Transept, but rather more obtuse. The north window, in general form, is similar to those in the south Aisle; but the three mullions simply divide at the spring into two branches, without crossing, and there is no transom or horizontal bar. The dripstone terminates in simple angular returns. The buttress placed at the east angle, is worked into three stages, the second of which is ornamented with a plain trefoil-headed pannel. The set-offs consist of two or three slabs. The buttress terminates below the parapet.

There is a modern flat ceiling formed of plaster. The roof has a double inclination, as in the Nave, and runs transversely. The parapet is embattled, like that at the west end of the south Aisle. When that part of the Church was repaired in 1784, this Transept underwent alterations of a similar kind; the expenses of which were defrayed by lord viscount Weymouth. The floor is bricked, and is below that of the Aisle.

Internally, the north Transept presents nothing to attract attention. A large substantial staircase gives access to the east end of the gallery in the Aisle; and a small wooden one to the pew in the Norman arch.

The opposite TRANSEPT, or, as it is usually designated, the south Chancel, by being lengthened eastwards,

assumes the character of an Aisle. It is hardly so broad as the Aisle of the Nave, which it adjoins. There are two broad simple-pointed windows on the south side. In the first, the three mullions simply arch into each other at the spring; and the head is subdivided in the same manner as the west window of the north Aisle. In the second window, the oval subordinate light is omitted. The dripstones have simple angular returns; as is the case with the hood-moulding of the first. The western window, in 1784, was blocked up with stone as far as the spring of the arch, and a doorway made through the wall, in order to form an entrance into the Church, in place of the south Porch. This alteration was made to afford the clergyman more convenient access to the Vestry, and the people to the south gallery. Below the windows externally, moulded string-courses run. The two buttresses are worked into five stages with plain set-offs. They do not rise the whole height of the wall, because an addition was made to it when the roof was rendered flat.

The wall of the south Transept has been chiselled in the same way as that of the north Aisle.

In the east wall, has been a large simple-pointed window. It has been blocked up, in order that the Vestry, when increased in height, might rest against it. Under it internally a moulded string-course runs, about twelve feet from the ground.

In the east of the Norman arch, a semicircular headed doorway, in which a modern square door has been inserted, leads into the Chancel. Above this, is a large long round-headed window, which evidently formed a part of the primitive Norman structure. It was no doubt blocked up, when the greater part of

the Church was rebuilt, about the time of Edward III, or Richard II. It has been richly ornamented; but three centuries' accumulation of whitewash has almost obliterated the details.

The marks of the original high-pitched roof may yet be traced upon the east wall, on each side of the window. Parallel with the bottom of them, a few feet below the present roof, a series of plain corbels projects from the south and west walls. In the latter, they are opposite the string-course in the Aisle, above the two arches. Along the north wall, the corbels have only been partially placed, and pass through the head of the Norman window. It is, therefore, very evident that, at the east end, the roof ran longitudinally, but, opposite the large Norman arch, it changed its direction, and ran transversely. The present roof is nearly flat. It has four tie-beams; and resembles very much that of the Nave, but is not so much ornamented. The wall-plates, on the north side only, rest on plain corbels. The floor is bricked, and raised a little above the Chancel, but on a level with the Aisle.

The internal arrangements offer little worthy of notice. In the south-east corner, elevated by one step, now stands the font. It is large, octagonal, devoid of all ornament, and rests upon a stem of a similar shape. There is a large old wooden staircase leading into the east part of the gallery in the south Aisle, and a smaller one, to the seat in the Norman arch.

There was once an altar at the east end. On the sill of the first window, stands a small hexagonal pedestal, ornamented on three sides with quatrefoils. At its base are the initial letters **M** **R**. To what these refer, it is impossible to conjecture. They were only

lately discovered by scraping off the whitewash; and a mason cut them out in a much bolder relief than they were found. The pedestal probably supported an image.

Very recently, our attention was directed to some marks upon the south side of the east wall. On removing a very thick coating of whitewash, we discovered that the wall is painted as far as the place where the altar had stood, and as high as the string-course below the window. It is ornamented with fretwork, white, but black at the intersections; and the large lozenge-shaped intervals are painted, in alternate transverse rows, red and green. The centre is of a red colour only; and, on this ground, are three female figures, kneeling in prayer with upraised hands, and turned towards the altar. They are each a little more than two feet high, and painted white, the outlines of the drapery being sketched in black, but the lineaments of the face and the hands in red. From the costume and style of execution, we should pronounce them to be of the time of Edward III. or Richard II., therefore nearly five-hundred years old. Unfortunately, the stone beneath is so decayed, that these interesting remains cannot long be preserved. In parts, the sweep of a brush would bring off the painting; which is consequently much injured, but unavoidably so, in the exposure. The lower part of the first figure has been destroyed, by the carrying of a gas-pipe across it. On the north side of the spot where the altar had been placed, we can find no traces of decorations such as these.

The CHANCEL is of the same width and nearly of the same height as the Nave, but has rather a more northern direction. This part is not divided from the

rest of the Church by a Chancel-arch. This was often the case in large parish-churches, which had regular choirs with stalls. The separation then only consisted of the rood-screen. But here no trace of it is now to be found, not even of any ascent into the rood-loft.¹

The whole of the lower part of both walls of the Chancel, is Norman, and built of rag-stone. The Norman part is mostly limited above by a string-course, running, fifteen feet from the floor, on a level with the lower part of the Norman window.

Beneath this window, in the south wall, is the Norman entrance into the south Transept. Farther eastwards, is the entrance into the present Vestry, having the square-headed trefoil arch, which prevailed during the twelfth and three ensuing centuries. And still farther on, close by the altar-piece, stood another similar doorway, now bricked up, which probably led into the ancient Vestry, now converted into a place for the deposition of lumber and rubbish. There are no traces of sedilia or seats used by the priests, during the chanting of the 'Gloria in excelsis' and of the Constantinopolitan creed. Very frequently they were merely formed of wood. The piscina or lavacrum, used only in the ceremonies of mass, remained boarded up until 1842. It is single, very plain, and pointed.

¹ The rood-loft was a gallery placed over the screen, separating the chancel from the nave, and running the whole width of them. In the centre of it, stood the rood or cross bearing the figure of our Lord, and on either side Sts. Mary and John. Its purposes were manifold. It was used for preaching, previously to the introduction of pulpits into churches; which did not take place before the thirteenth century. From it, were read the martyrology and lessons, and the fasts and holidays announced to the people. The passion of our Lord, and the gradual and other parts of mass were sung there, a small organ being fixed there. On great festivals, lights were set up in the rood-loft; and, at Christmas and Whitsuntide, it was decorated with flowers. It was usually formed of wood; and was considered requisite for every Church.

There appears to have been a shelf: but there is no basin. It probably projected from the wall, and was removed when the piscina fell into disuse.

In the Norman part of the north wall, has been formed a doorway, in which is inserted a modern door, and three fine arches of the decorated style, all communicating with the Chantry-chapel. The heads of these are cinquefoiled, and each part again similarly divided. In the Chancel, the first has been built up, in order that the large monument of the Ferrers' family might be placed against it. The hood-mouldings have circular returns: those of the second and third arches are continuous. The first arch is placed at a greater distance, and on a higher level, than the other two. Beneath all three arches, altar-tombs are now placed.

Immediately above the string-course on each side, are three simple-pointed windows, in the decorated style. They are placed on the same level as the Norman window of the south side. The hood-mouldings have returns like those of the arches. The three windows upon the north side were blocked up, when the Chantry-chapel was built; they retain the ancient tracery. Each was divided into two principal lights; and the three subordinate ones were quatrefoiled. On the south side, the mullion of each divides into two curved branches: the dripstones externally are decayed away.

Above these, stand the clerestory-windows, at the base of which a string-course runs. The first three windows are simple-pointed. The three mullions, merely divide each into two branches at the spring, but do not cross; and all the lights are plain. The dripstones and hood-mouldings are ornamented with crockets and finials, and terminate by demi-figures, particularly fine

externally, where they consist of persons and priests; but some of them have been cut away, to admit leaden pipes. On the south side externally, they terminated in angular returns. Between these three windows, within are shallow niches or pannels, with canopies ornamented with crockets and finials, and terminated in sculptured heads. They are very much smaller than those of the Nave.

The four other windows, two of which are above the Norman arch on each side, are four-centred and depressed; and the mullions are disposed like those in the three. Above them, are ogee canopies terminated in corbel-heads within, and angular returns without. These windows are separated internally by niches like the rest, but larger, so that the corbel-heads, serve both for them and for the windows.

Between the windows, externally, are buttresses exactly similar to those of the Nave. But there are none between the first three on the south side. Here, the Vestry and the Lumber-room are considerably lower than the Chancel and Transept.

The large east window is four-centred and depressed. The details are wholly debased. The central mullion is very massive, and runs entirely through the head. On each side, the mullions, at the spring, arch over and intersect each other. A small perpendicular mullion then divides the head into two parts; in the inner of which a circular subordinate light is introduced. The dripstone and hood-moulding are decorated with crockets and finials, and terminate in demi-figures, those externally being carved as griffins.

It is evident that the interior of the Chancel has once been very splendid. The red painting of the east

wall may yet be seen by scraping off the whitewash. On each side of the window is a niche, surmounted by a canopy which projects considerably in front, and is enriched with crockets and finial, and its interior groined with numerous small rib-mouldings. The lower part is hidden by the modern altar-piece. Immediately above this, another niche or pannel, with an ogee canopy, stands. A similar one, but much longer, and divided into two parts, is placed on each side the window externally: and a string-course runs along the wall, some distance beneath. The walls, on each side the window, have been refaced with stone, as low as the string-course.

The two buttresses are placed diagonally at the angles. That at the north angle, presents most traces of the ancient form. It is divided into four stages, and has once terminated in a pinnacle. The two upper are placed triangularly; the inferior of these has been panelled; and the set-off dividing them is gabled, with crockets and finial. The other set-offs are plain slopes, the lower formed of three slabs. The south buttress is entirely square, and devoid of all ornament.

The roof of the Chancel is between two and three feet lower than that of the Nave. It differs from it in retaining the wall-pieces, and in being devoid of ornament. Of the wall-pieces supporting the eight tie-beams, the first four rest upon corbels sculptured into demi-figures and placed above the niches between the window, except at the east end, where there is no niche. The remainder rest on corbel-heads placed at the summit of the niches. The parapets are horizontal and plain.

The floor of the Chancel is flagged, and on a level

with that of the Nave. The communion-rails are raised one step. Between them and the communion-table, are placed the encaustic tiles found in the south Aisle. They are charged with several devices and arms, the ground being red, and the figures yellow. Amongst them are, a fess between six cross-crosslets, for Beauchamp, earl of Warwick;—three chevronells;—a lion passant guardant, the letter M; and the fleur-de-liz.

The wooden altar-piece is large, heavy, devoid of beauty, and in the Grecian style. It was put up in 1787. It bears, besides the ten commandments, the Lord's prayer and the Apostles' creed, a painting of the "pelican in her piety."

The CHANTRY-CHAPEL, or as it is now most commonly called the North Chancel, extends from the Transept to the east end of the Chancel. The four windows upon the north side are four-centred and depressed. The three mullions simply divide into two branches, which do not cross in the centre. All the lights are plain, except in the last window, where they the quatrefoil is introduced. The moulded dripstones terminate generally in corbel-heads. The large east window is segmental. It consists of seven lights; but the details are debased. The two central mullions arch at the spring into each other and to the jambs of the windows. The next are continued through the head; but the others only reach so far as the large arch of the mullions. The central part of the head is subdivided by two curves and a horizontal line. The dripstone is ornamented with crockets, and ends in corbel-heads.

On each side of the window, internally, is a niche, which has been very fine. It is groined within, and

surmounted by a canopy, like those in the Chancel. The bracket, that once gave support to an image, was sculptured into a cherub. Both are very greatly mutilated.

The buttress at the angle is placed diagonally; and is worked into three stages by plain set-offs of two and three slabs. The other three buttresses, upon the north side, consist of two stages, the dividing set-off being formed of four slabs. All of them terminate at some distance below the parapet.

The roof, which is very modern, is formed of seven tie-beams, resting upon wall-plates: and these are supported by plain corbels, except on the south side. A ridge-piece runs along the centre; and each bay is divided into squares by three purlins and four rafters. There are no bosses. The roof is not so high as that of the Transept. The parapets are devoid of ornament.

The floor is bricked, on a level with that of the Transept, and below the Chancel. Internally the Chantry-chapel presents nothing demanding attention, except the sepulchral monuments, which we shall hereafter give. An altar stood beneath the east window.

The modern VESTRY is as plain within as plaster and whitewash can make it. The window, upon the south side, is square-headed, and divided by a mullion, with some tracery at the top. The roof is plastered; and the parapet plain.

The LUMBER-ROOM, at the east end of the Vestry, and included under the same roof, is built of rag-stone, like the south wall of the Chancel. Externally it is debased; having been faced with stone, and a modern flat-headed doorway made on the south side, to afford

an entrance from the Church-yard. The small window upon the east side is also flat and debased. It is divided into three lights with semicircular heads.

The last part of the Church, of which he have to speak, is the TOWER, placed at the west end of the Nave. It is a square structure, very massive, and rather low when compared with the length of the Church. At the corners, are placed four square turrets, surmounted by lofty octagonal spires, and supported by a buttress at the two angles, placed at right angles to one another, and to the Tower. Each of these buttresses is worked into four stages, and terminates at the base of the spire. The set-offs are gabled, ornamented with crockets and finials, and formed laterally of two overlapping slabs. The second and third stages are ornamented with panelling. At the south-east angle, the buttress is continued into the west wall of the Aisle; but, at the north-east angle, it is built over the wall, and encroaches upon the window. However, that as little light as possible might be obstructed, the lowest stage has not been made of so great width as the rest from the sill of the window upwards. This plainly shows that the Tower was erected after the Aisle, as otherwise this peculiarity would not have existed. The spires are now of considerable height. They appear to have been originally very much shorter, and to have been ornamented with crockets and finials. But they have been so often repaired, and lengthened at the same time, that they have acquired their present proportions.

From their exposed position, the spires have been subject to many accidents from the weather, particularly within the last fifty years. In June, 1795, part of the

north-west one was thrown down by a stroke of lightening; which considerably injured other parts of the Church, particularly the west window of the south Aisle. The repair of the spire cost 74*l*. On the last day of December, 1833, a high wind blew down a portion of the north-east pinnacle. The fragments considerably damaged the parapet of the Nave. On the 7th of January, 1839, a violent gale blew down the top of the south-east pinnacle, and the south battlements of the Tower were greatly injured. The north-east one was also considerably displaced. Lastly, in the summer of 1843, one of the north pinnacles suffered during a violent thunder-storm. The two upon this side have since been rebuilt or completely repaired. The terminations of the buttresses at the north-west corner have been renewed, but the crockets and finials omitted. The pinnacles are now surmounted by weather-fanes.

The interior of the Tower, forming the entrance into the Church, has once been very fine. It was lighted by three very large windows, with four-centred depressed heads,—one between the Tower and the Nave, another on the west, and the third on the south side. All were similar in design, but now the last only remains, the other two having been bricked up. The deformity, however, has been somewhat concealed by the application of cement, and whitewash. The window which still exists, is remarkably shallow within. Externally the jambs and architrave, instead of being moulded, are ornamented with large pannels. The mullions are debased; and the principal lights divided into two. About midway, the three mullions curve round and intersect each other. The same disposition again takes place at the spring of the arch. The head is divided

by two mullions conjoined below, and curved outwards, from the middle on the outer side of which two others pass in a reversed direction downwards, thus forming five subordinate lights. The dripstone terminates in corbel-heads. Immediately below the window, the first moulded string-course runs completely round the Tower. Internally, there is a corresponding string-course carried along the four principal sides.

A simple-pointed doorway forms the immediate entrance from the Tower into the Church. The mouldings of the jambs and architrave, on the east side, are obliterated. On the west, they consist of three engaged slender shafts, between the second and third of which is a cavetto, where, in the architrave, a four-leaved flower is inserted at intervals. The first shaft, at the spring, separates into two branches; the outer continues in a perpendicular direction to the string-course, thus forming a square head. The spandrills are filled with a circle, in which the quatrefoil is introduced, and two trefoils: these are mere mouldings, perhaps entirely modern.

The western entrance is panelled within, and is included under a square head, like the other doorway, to which it bears great resemblance. But the pannels have been greatly concealed by plaster. Externally the cavetto, instead of passing along the architrave, continues, with the attached shafts, straight to the string-course, thus assisting in forming the square head. The spandrills are occupied by a circle, in which is a quatrefoil; and these are cut very deeply into the wall. The doorway is cemented.

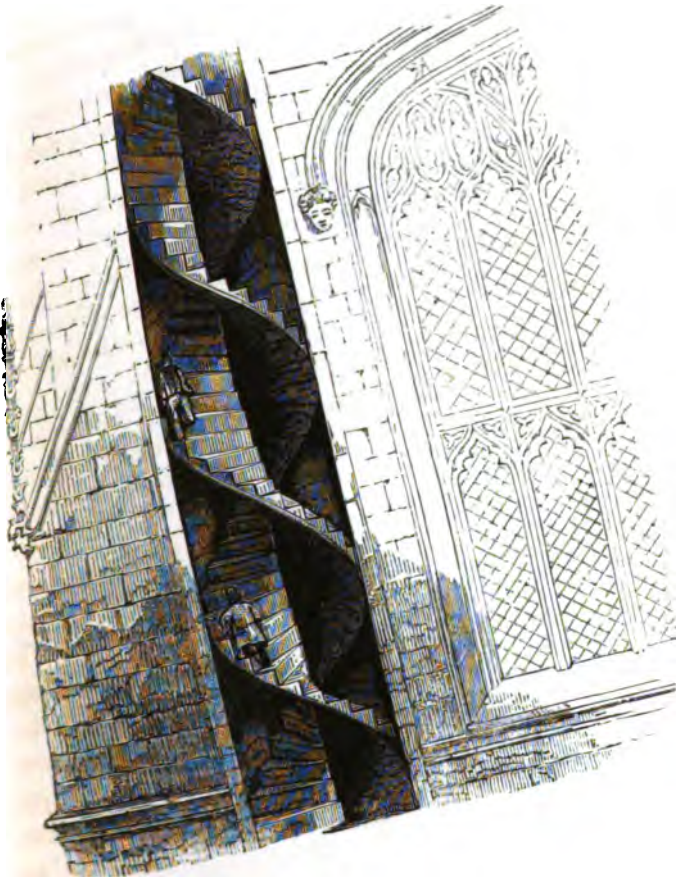
There was once a very fine, elliptical, groined, ceiling, formed of stone. Three small rounded groining-ribs

diverged longitudinally, diagonally, and transversely, from slender shafts, which rose from the ground in each corner. But, some time in the sixteenth century, it was destroyed, in order to form a room for the greater convenience of the ringers, below that anciently used by them. The floor of this new room intersects the three windows of the Tower; and two of them were, therefore, built up. The modern ceiling is still elliptical, but is formed of wood and plaster. The removal of this stone ceiling must greatly have impaired the firmness of the Tower. This, indeed, is painfully evident, in the long cracks which have since appeared in its sides.

Although the loftiness entrance of the Tower has thus been diminished, it is still considerable. The whole internally has been plastered and whitewashed. The floor is flagged.

The staircase in the south-west angle, forming the ascent to the Tower, is a very peculiar structure, and forms one of the greatest curiosities of which the town can now boast. Staircases of this construction are said to be exceedingly rare, even upon the continent. It consists of two spiral flights of steps, winding, one above the other, round the same central pillar or newel, so that the floor of one forms the roof of the other. The whole is enclosed within a cylinder six feet in diameter, and is lighted from without by long apertures or loop-holes. The reader will gain a clearer idea of this piece of architecture than could be conveyed in a lengthened description, from the engraving which is given of it. It will be evident that two persons might ascend or descend, at the same time, and not see each other, provided they took different stairs. One

Double Staircase.



S. Editha's Church, Tamworth.

Published by J. Thompson, Tamworth, 1843.

of the stairs, of one-hundred and six steps, opening below in the Church-yard, originally communicated only with the top of the Tower, and, about two-thirds up, with a short passage in the south wall. The other stairs, opening within the Tower below, and consisting of one-hundred and one steps, lead to all the internal parts. During the last year, this staircase, being much worn, was rebuilt throughout about two-thirds of its extent; but the original design was strictly followed.

Of the two door-ways, the internal is plain. The external one has been rather rich in ornament. The head is trefoiled; and above is a large niche, with a projecting canopy, and small groining ribs within. It anciently contained an image; but now the whole is very much worn away.

The utility of this curious structure is entirely unknown, although it has afforded a subject for much speculation. Plott guesses that it might be in order that the *Decani-copiatæ*,—in plain English, the sextons,—to whom was committed the charge of ringing the bells, and of burying the dead, and the *diaconi* or *sacristæ*—the deacons or sacrists,—that made the responses, and took care of the vestments and utensils of the church, might perform their duties apart, each having access to the tower without disturbing the other. Or else it might be that the clock-keeper might execute his office without troubling either of them.¹ But, in spite of his pedantic and useless display of patristic knowledge, Plott shows that he either wrote without reflection, or was exceedingly deficient in observation during his survey of the structure. The incorrectness

¹ Plott's *Staffordshire*.

of his suppositions is directly evident from the fact that the outer stairs did not originally communicate directly with the internal parts of the Tower. Our own opinion inclines us to consider the arrangement, if it were not merely an architectural curiosity, as one assuming somewhat of a defensive character.

Such does this appear to have been from the general construction of the Tower. The outer stairs might have afforded to the inhabitants of the town, and to the watchmen of the Church,¹ an easy access to the Tower without interfering with the internal parts or obstructing the free passage to it from within the Church. The Tower, being of a much greater height, and commanding a more extensive prospect of the surrounding country than the Castle, would be preferable as a place for watching and signals, and prove of great use during the troubled times of the wars between the houses of Lancaster and York.

In ascending the stairs from the Church-yard, the visitor, about a quarter of the way up, comes to a doorway leading up into the ringer's room. This doorway is modern, the room being so. Perhaps the latter was formed in order that the ringers might have a place to which they could easily have access, instead of one higher up, to which the stairs from within only directly led.

The ringer's room presents nothing, except the remains of the ancient vaulted ceiling in the corners.

¹ There were formerly regular watchmen appointed for this Church; how great their number was, we do not exactly know. In October, 1539, the Court-rolls state that a bloody affray took place, during the night, between John le Cartwright, Robert his brother, William Tuck, and William son of William Symonds, and the watchmen of the Church, as well as those of the town. The persons, whose names are mentioned, were very severely wounded and beaten. The cause of the disturbance is not recorded.

A ladder affords the means of communication with the chime-room above.

Nearly two-thirds of the way up the stairs, a narrow passage is cut in the south wall of the Tower. Here three large splayed apertures or loop-holes overlook the town and Castle, with the surrounding country. The heads of these are trefoiled. Below them, is placed the face of the clock, put up about the close of the last century: and underneath this, just above the great window, the second string-course of the Tower runs, which is found on all the four sides, but does not pass over the angles. Above these apertures, under the belfry windows, the third string-course, similar to the last, is found. The stairs terminate by the door leading to the summit of the Tower.

A short distance up the other stairs, which commence from within, is a small square doorway. This was blocked up during the late repairs. It was formed in the lower part of the jamb of the south window, and led by an external passage in front of the window and above the first string-course, which is protected by a small embattled parapet, into a small room or recess in the north-west angle of the Tower.

These rooms, several of which occupy the angles of the Tower, are about five feet square. They are lighted by three small plain loop-holes. The ceilings are arched and groined. The semi-octagonal ribs spring from plain cubical corbels in the corners, and run transverse, diagonally, and longitudinally.

About half way up these stairs, a passage made in the thickness of the wall, and lighted by two square apertures, which are placed a little above the second string-course, leads to another of the little rooms in

the north-west angle. From this passage, two doorways communicated with the chime-room, the northern one of which is now nearly bricked up.

The chime-room contains the clock. The chimes have long been disused, and the remains of the machinery are alone found. In the north-east angle, a doorway leads into one of the small square rooms. From this, a passage in the east wall, lighted by two loop-holes, which penetrate through into the chime-room, conducts to another of these rooms, in the south-east corner.

In the north wall of the chime-room, is a recess lighted by a large trefoil-headed aperture, placed just above the second string-course, now half bricked up. In this recess, is a door from which a flight of steps descends for some distance, and then conducts by a ladder to the leads of the north Aisle. From the bottom of these steps a passage runs along the south wall, and at the end, turns eastward, conducting to the leads of the south Aisle. Midway, a doorway opens upon the Nave. This must have been formed after the clerestory; as otherwise it would have been placed in the valley of the high-pitched roof.

Higher up the stairs than the passage into the chime-room, is the belfry. This room is open to the roof, and very lofty. It is square below, but above assumes an octagonal shape. It is lighted by two large simple-pointed windows on each side. The jambs and architrave of each are only moulded externally. The mullion divides into two branches at the spring; and the lights are foliated. In some of the windows, the mullion has been destroyed: in two, it has lately been restored. The dripstones are continuous, and terminate by angular returns. In each corner of the belfry, raised consider-

ably above the floor, is one of the usual small rooms. Here they have rather lost their quadrilateral form, some of the corners being cut off. In this case, the corresponding corbel of the roof is deficient, and the groining rib appears to emerge from the wall.

There is a peal of six bell of considerable size. They are tuned in the key of E., are melodious, and so loud as to be heard at a considerable distance from the town. They all bear inscriptions, stating the time at which they were founded.

First bell.

I FOUNDED WAS THROUGH CHARITIE, BY THOSE WHO
LOVE SUCH MELODIE . 1672.

Second bell.

I H S. NAZARENUS REX IVDEORUM, FILII DEI, MIS-
ERERE MEI . 1621.

Third bell.

GOD SAVE THE CHURCH . 1629 . R W E W CHURCH-
WAR.

Fourth bell.

I SWEETLY TOLING MEN DO CALL, TO TASTE ON MEATE
THAT FEEDS THE SOULE . 1628.

W . SMYTH , I . ELLIS , CHURCHWARDENS ; R . BRA-
BIN , CLARKE.

Fifth bell.

BRYANUS ELDRIDGE ME FECIT . 1656. T A N T.

Sixth or great bell.

BOLAND FRANCES , HENRIE HILL , CHURCH WARDENS ;
PETER GORTON , SIDESMAN . 1607.

BE . YT . KNOWN . TO . ALL . THAT . DOTH . ME . SEE .
THAT . NEWCOMBE . OF . LEICESTER . MADE . ME . 1607.

Two ancient customs are yet retained at Tamworth. The ringing of the bell at six o'clock in the morning,

which formerly called the people to the early mass, now serves to summon the inhabitants from their night's repose. The curfew, once the signal for persons to put out their fires and lights,—a wholesome regulation when the houses were principally formed of wood,—is still rung at eight o'clock in the evening. But, although our good ancestors retired so early, they rose at dawn of day. On the 18th of October, 1448, it was ordered at the court-leet that the dean of the Church should cause the bell to be rung every morning at three o'clock.¹ In these perverted times, it would only sound upon the listless ear of sleep.

Higher up the stairs than the belfry, there is a large aperture, somewhat like a doorway, which overlook the bells. The stairs then terminate at the door leading upon the top of the Tower.²

The parapets are plain and embattled, with the coping moulding continued down the sides of the embrasures, and then returned horizontally. Beneath the parapet, a hollow cornice-moulding is carried along the four sides, in which a four-leaved flower and other ornaments have been introduced. Near the ends of each of these, a large gargoyle, sculptured into a grotesque figure, served to carry off the rain from the gutters. Almost all of these gargoyles are gone, and the rest greatly decayed. The summit of the Tower is occupied by a high octagonal basement, so large as to leave only a narrow path around. It is generally believed that it was intended to be the foundation of a large central spire; but, as is

¹ Court rolls, 27 H. VI.

² Strangers who visit the Church, in descending from the Tower, are liable to make a mistake and take the wrong stairs, so that they find themselves, at last, within the Church, instead of in the Church-yard. The annoyance of having to retrace their steps will be avoided by observing that the stairs commencing externally terminate several steps above the level of the others.

often seen in large ecclesiastical edifices on the continent, it was capped, and left for completion at a subsequent period. When the shortness of the Tower in proportion to the length of the body of the Church is considered, this opinion does not appear to be destitute of foundation.

The windows in this building were most likely filled, at one time, with stained glass containing many a figure of a saintly person or pious donor, and rich with illustrations from scriptural history and the legendary store of the church.¹ But of very few of these have we now any record, except in respect to the coats of arms, of which notes were taken in the years 1590 and 1597. They probably belonged to patrons and benefactors of the foundation, or to their families.

- 1 Gu., three lions passant guardant Or; on a label of three points Az., nine fleurs-de-liz of the second.—Plantagenet.
- 2 Arg., on a chief Az., a mullet of six points Or.—Clinton of Maxtoke-castle.
- 3 Gu., a lion rampant Or.
- 4 Or, three chevronells Gu.—Clare.
- 5 Az., between four martlets, a cross flory Or.
- 6 Az., a bend cotized Arg., between six lions ramp. Or.
- 7 Chequy Or and Az.—Warren.
- 8 Quarterly, 1st and 4th Az., three fleurs-de-liz Or; 2nd and 3rd Gu., three lions passant guardant Or.—France and England.
- 9 Gu., three bars wavy Or.—Basset of Blore.
- 10 Or, a cross flory Gu.—Frevile.
- 11 Gu., seven mascles conjoined 3, 3, and 1, Or.—Ferrers of Groby.

¹ Fragments of painted glass have frequently been found on opening graves in the Church; but until lately no care has been taken of them. The hand of an episcopal personage raised in benediction, part of the head of a priest, and some small pieces, were recently found in opening a vault in the Vestry.

- 12 Plantagenet.
- 13 Or, a chevron Gu.—Stafford, dukes of Buckingham.
- 14 Gu., a fess between six cross-crosslets Or.—Beauchamp, earls of Warwick.
- 15 Or, three piles Gu; a canton Ermine.—Basset of Drayton.
- 16 Arg., three bars Az.; with a label of three points Or.
- 17 Az., three crowns Or two and one.
- 18a border of fleurs-de-liz.
- 19 Vairy Arg. and Az., a fess Or, with a....indented Gu.
- 20 Fretty Arg. and Sa.
- 21 Or, on a bend cotized Vert, three mullets Gu.
- 22 Or, a saltire engrailed Sa.—Botetourt.
- 23 Gu., on a cross engrailed Or, five roses of the first; impaling party per pale Or and Az.
- 24 Arms for "Johannes Ferrers, miles, & Mat..da .. or. d'na Dorothea ux.. p'fat' Jo' Harpur."
- 25 And for "Johannes Ferrers, mil', fil' Tho' Ferrers. Anna ux' fil.. Hastings, mil', & Matild' fil' Stanley 2 ux'." "Johannes Ferrers & Doro' ux' eius: obiit 1512."

But these arms of the Ferrers were so mutilated and so badly made that they could not be well described.¹

Dugdale, about fifty years later, mentions only two pieces of stained glass. One, in the east window of the Chancel, depicted William the Conqueror in the act of conferring upon Robert de Marmyon the Castle of Tamworth and its demesnes. Below the representation was written,

Hic, per Willielmum Conquestorem, Robertus Marmion Dominus Castellī efficitur.

¹ Harl. M.S.:—Shaw's Staffordsh. The inscriptions assigned to the last two arms have been inextricably confused. They must have been very sadly broken.

The second representation given by Dugdale is of a lady and three daughters, and a knight and four sons, all kneeling in prayer ; with the fragment of an inscription below,

..... *ferrers militis* *et*
d'na Dorothea

On his surcoat were these arms. Quarterly, 1st. Ferrers of Groby, with a label of three points. 2nd., Botetourt. 3rd., Freville. 4th., Mountford. Upon the mantle of lady Dorothy Ferrers, were nearly similar arms ; but she bore those of Harper additional.

The whole of this stained glass was destroyed about the middle of the seventeenth century, very probably by the hands of the fanatical puritans. For then—

“The reverend pile lay wild and waste,
 Profaned, dishonoured, and defaced ;
 Through storied lattices no more,
 In softened light, the sunbeams pour,
 Gilding the Gothic sculpture rich,
 Of shrine, and monument, and niche.
 The civil fury of the time
 Made sport of sacrilegious crime :
 For dark fanaticism rent
 Altar, and skreen, and ornament.”—*Scott*.

So that when Dr. Thomas visited the Church, the only arms that he found were two of Repington, in the east window, which still exist.

At the present period, a very few pieces of stained glass remain, and those of exceedingly small dimensions. They are all placed in the large window of the Chancel ; and are as follows.

In the head, is a quantity of purple and orange glass, not arranged in any very particular mode, which was given by Mr. Arthur Wyatt, in 1809. On the right hand, is a small but ancient piece. It bears the design

of a human skull, and under it a coffin marked with a cross and placed upon a tressel. Along the sides, are short scrolls, thus inscribed:—

Mors	et	Judiciu'
Vesca		bermiu'
Nolle		et ip'm
memorare		nobissima

Over the coffin is a scroll.

Miserere mei deus.

And another below.

Disce mori, quia morieris.

Below this, are some fragments of painted glass formed into the shape of a church: and under the last another small but ancient piece, representing, as the title above it states,

The Day of Judgment.

Christ is there depicted as sitting in judgment upon man. His right hand is raised in the act of benediction, and His left merely extended. He is attended, as usual, with an angel bearing the cross, others sounding trumpets, and the heavenly host. The right side of the piece is much mutilated; but there remain two words,

patris mei,

of the short but glorious invitation to the mansions of everlasting rest. On the left, stands a man, and over him a scroll containing the fearful sentence of condemnation,

Esto maledictu' i' igne' eternu'

Many bodies are rising from their tombs, some with only the head appearing, others half out. The prevailing colour of the two old pieces is yellow.

On the other side of this window, are these arms,—

Gu., a fess indented Ermine, between six billets Arg.,—for Repington; impaling Az., an eagle displayed Arg., armed Gu.,—for Cotton of Hamstall-Ridware. Beneath, is another church made up of fragments; and under that a second coat of arms,—Repington; impaling Arg., three bars Az.; on a canton Or, a fess, and in chief three mascles Sa.,—for Stamford.

In the three blank decorated windows on the north side of the Chancel, some arms and designs have been painted, but are much faded and discoloured, either by the lapse of time, or by the ignorance of persons who have repainted them.

In the first or eastern window.

1 Bendy Arg. and Az., in the dexter chief a mascle.

2 A chevron between three fleurs-de-liz Or.

In the second window.

1 Arg., a boar's head erased *Vert*?; impaling Sa., a chevron Arg.

2 Quarterly, three crescents, one in chief and two in base. These are only sketched in black lines.

In the third window.

1 Sa., a fess indented between three mullets Arg.; impaling Arg., a chevron in a border *Vert*?

2 A very rough drawing of some part of this or another church, and only remarkable on account of the buttress at the end being depicted as pinnacled.

There are a few other little pieces of painting in these windows; but of them nothing can now be made out.

When we discovered the painting on the east wall of the south Transept, the sheet containing the account of that part of the Church was in the hands of the printer, (see page 260). More extended research enables

us now to give a better description of these interesting remains.

The south half of the wall has been painted over with fret-work, as we stated; and, in all the red lozenge-shaped intervals, a black crescent has been introduced. This part has plainly represented the day of judgment. Besides the three female figures facing northwards, evidently placed for those who shall be living at the second advent of our Lord, there are opposite three naked demi-figures, priests from their shaven crowns, rising from a tomb. These face in a contrary direction to the others. In the interval between them, has doubtless been a figure of Christ; but it has been obliterated, and the wall plastered.

The remaining half of the east wall contains paintings. These are considerably later than the other piece, and are executed in a much superior style. They are drawn upon plaster: and have been so greatly injured that the subject can only partially be made out. Under a four-centred depressed arch ornamented with crockets and finial, is the figure of a female kneeling by an altar, on the edge of which her conjoined hands are placed. Close to her and behind the altar, stands a bishop, holding in the left hand a closed book, and in the right a pastoral staff. The bishop's mitre is placed upon the altar. In the upper part of the arch, a hand is seen in the act of benediction, and seems significant that the blessing of Heaven rested on the act performed underneath. To the right, is another similar arch, with the benedictory hand; but the subject below is completely gone. Under the left pillar of this arch, are the remains of a female figure praying and turned towards the bishop. The subject seems to be the

profession of a nun ; and may have related to the legend of St. Editha, the patroness of the Church.

This piece has been very greatly mutilated by the removal of portions, and the plastering up of the crevices and hollows. Only one end of the altar remains, all the lower portion, including the greater part of the female figures, is gone, the bishop is imperfect, in fact nothing is complete. At the commencement of Elizabeth's reign, it was ordered that all "superstitious" paintings should be obliterated, and appropriate sentences or texts from scripture written over the space which they had occupied. The injunction appears to have been fully carried out here. Parts were broken down, the whole whitewashed over, and sentences then written. We attempted to decypher the inscriptions before proceeding to investigate the remains beneath ; but we found it impossible by any means we could adopt. All representations of any of the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity, even of the Son in His humanity, were especial objects of destruction : and hence we may account for the removal of the figure of Christ, in the day of judgment. It was the sudden termination of the piece, where this had been, which led us to conclude that beyond there was no more painting.

Having devoted a considerable space to the description of the architectural details of the Church, we shall conclude the subject, with a very few remarks on its general appearance.

Altogether it is a noble and venerable pile. The Tower especially is remarkably massive and grand. Flanked by its turrets and bold buttresses, surmounted by four pinnacles of unusual dimensions, it bears an

aspect of greater size, solidity, and grandeur, than we have seen in any other parish-church.

Entering the principal door at the western end, we stand in a lofty vaulted hall, which, although greatly robbed of its original proportions, yet retains a fine appearance. We pass into the Nave; and a long perspective of pillars, arches, and clerestory, stands before us. Internally it is spacious and lofty. The clustered columns and pointed arches of the Nave and the decorated character of the remainder of the structure contrast strangely, yet not inharmoniously, with the heavy massive Norman architecture of the Transept-arches.

The whole of the Church within has formerly been very fine; but the eye is pained, at every point, by evidence of the mutilation and destruction, which the taste and repairs of the last age have wrought. The walls are thickly covered and the fine moulding concealed by an almost incredible accumulation of colouring and whitewash. The original tracery of the windows has given place to wretched specimens of the modern gothic in its most debased condition. The carved oak roofs have been deprived of their noblest features. The ancient screen, forming the entrance into the Choir, has disappeared; and iron rails, with tawdry gilded scroll-work, obstruct the way. The eastern wall is graced with a specimen of *domestic Grecian* wood-work, intended as an altar-piece.

The mantle of "one Cottrel a mason" seems but too effectually to have descended on his successors. Every repair afforded to this venerable fabric, has been made the means of effecting injury—oft irreparable,—to its details; and it stands, at this moment, a striking monument of that dark age of architecture, from which we are happily just emerging.

Thanks to the good taste now prevalent, the progress of desolation seems to be at length arrested; and, in the style and execution of the most recent repairs, we recognise the dawn of a long wished for day, when every blow of the mason's hammer, every stroke of his chisel, shall assist in restoring to us, and perpetuating to our successors, the splendid memorials of the genius and piety of our forefathers.

MONUMENTS AND TOMBSTONES.

Contrary to what might be expected from the size and antiquity of the edifice, and from the residence of several eminent families in the town and its immediate neighbourhood, the Church does not contain a great number of sepulchral monuments. Those of a modern date, consisting, with but one exception, merely of tablets placed on the walls, are similar to those usually adopted at the present time, and do not rise very greatly above mediocrity. There are also many grave-stones placed in the floor, the majority of which pretend to no higher merit than that of recording the names of those who lie beneath. The few ancient tombs that still remain, are alone worthy of especial notice, notwithstanding the miserable mutilation which they have suffered. Indeed, to such a degree have they been defaced, that it is scarcely possible to trace their details, and ascertain to whom they originally belonged.

The violation of these venerable memorials of the dead, has generally been attributed to the parliamentary army, in the seventeenth century. The officers are said then to have converted this building into stables, to have caused the effigies on the monuments to be dis-

figured, and to have torn up the brasses that they might enrich themselves with the paltry profits of their sale. But, whatever the republicans may have done, it cannot be doubted that a vast amount of injury must be referred to others, both anteriorly and subsequently to the civil war. The puritans are too often made a scape-goat to bear the sins of persons less excusable than they.

But however deficient the monuments and tombstones may be in an architectural point of view, they are of considerable importance. For the inscriptions which they bear, convey much useful and interesting information. We will give an abstract of the whole throughout, and describe those deserving particular attention.

On the floor of the Nave, are only five tombstones. John Wilson, captain in the Royal Navy, died Sept. 1st, 1797, aged 66 years; Frances, his daughter by his second wife, Dec. 15th, 1799, aged 22. Frances his wife, daughter of Thomas Broadley of Hull, died Feb. 21st, 1769, aged 32. Mary Wilson, his second wife, died April 9th, 1805, aged 60. Thomas Vaughton died May 26th, 1759, aged 77; Mary his wife, June 6th, 1719, aged 38. Mary Dyall died Feb. 25th, 1793, aged 75; John Vaughton, Oct. 14th, 1777, aged 63; Samuel Grundy, Nov. 21st, 1803, aged 53.

Sixteen tombstones are placed in the north Aisle. One illegible. Ann Harding died July 21st, 1768, aged 28 years. John Watterson.....; his wife Hannah died Dec. 25th, 1744. George Arthur Herbert, of Glanhafren, in Montgomeryshire, died March 6th, 1821, aged 36 years. Seliza Alford died Feb. 3rd, 1811. Godfrey's vault under the font. Mary Paull, died Dec. 27th, 1772, aged 61. Elizabeth Bradgate died Aug. 3rd, 1761, aged

36. J. Marshall, of Wilnecote, died Jan. 18th, 1800, aged 46. Josiah Marshall died April 6th, 1792, aged 72. Philip Bearcroft, gent., son of Thomas Bearcroft, of Bradley, in Worcestershire, died Sept. 21st, 1695, aged 83; Elizabeth his wife, daughter of William Frith, of Merevale, in Warwickshire,—she had issue five daughters,—died April 8th, 1692, aged 81. Between the second and third windows, is a large mural monument, the summit hidden by the gallery. On it is the figure of an infant, supporting and weeping over a medallion that bears a profile of the deceased. Below is this inscription.

Quod superest JOHANNIS HOMER
 Hic juxta deponi voluit,
 Unde ortum habuit ibidem ut rediret.
 Qualis erat in arte Medica et Chirurgica
 Multis non opus est loqui.
 Testantur Morbi et parturientium Labores relevati,
 Pluribus quam enumerare nunc est,
 Pauperibus seque ac Locupletibus,
 Quippe humani nihil a se alienum putavit.
 Cum annos cerciter triginti apud Londinensis
 Famæ inservisset,
 Comparatis interim et opibus et amicis,
 Et jam cedere posset uti satur conviva,
 Huic commigrans vicinis,
 Ut saluti consuleret et otio,
 In ipso itinere subito est correptus,
 Ang. 19, Anno Dⁿⁱ 1769, Ætatis 56.

To the right of the west window, is a small mural monument.

Here
 this Place lyes
 the Body of
 Edward Wolverstan, Gent.,
 who departed this Life
 May the 27th., 1761, Aged 69.
 He was the second Son
 of the late
 Rev. Mr. Stanford Wolverstan,
 of Wooton,
 in the County of Warwick.
 Also the Body of Alice Wolverstan,
 Relict of the Said Edward Wolverstan,
 who departed this Life 7th. June, 1766,
 Aged 76.

Two stones below mark where the bodies lie.

On the opposite side of this window, is a large mural monument recording the deaths of Elizabeth, wife of William Paull, May 26th, 1787, at the age of 23 years;—of Mary and Jane, their infant children;—of William Paull, July 8th, 1816, aged 65;—of Joseph-Samuel, his son, Jan. 22nd, 1818, aged 14;—of Elizabeth, wife of William, Sept. 20th, 1821, aged 50.

Fourteen stones, several illegible, lie in the south Aisle. Walter Howe died Jan. 17th, 1798, aged 94. Margaret, wife of William Nicholls, died in March, 1735. Elizabeth, wife of John Ball, died March 18th, 1742, aged 45; John Ball, 17 . . aged 4. . Mary, daughter of John and Mary Marriott, died Oct. 20th, 1790, aged 28; Mary, wife of John, March 11th, 1792, aged 65. Ann Ball died Nov. 16th, 1778; her sister Elizabeth Matthews, Aug. 1st, 1800, aged 91. Dightonmathe, gent., died Oct. 16th, 1777. W. Lyon's vault. Steph. Fletcher, of Manchester, died Sept. 25th, 1779, aged 60. John Wilmot died Nov. 17th, 1821, aged 81. Walter Rose died Feb. 9th, 1730, aged 61; Jane his wife, Jan. 2nd, 1732, aged 58; Charles Rose, May 3rd, 1770. At the east end, on the floor beneath the pedestal that once supported our Lady's image, are the remains of two gravestones which have been employed in forming the pavement. The date of one remains,

JUNE, ANNO DOM.
1643.

On the other, are some arms, over which a stove has been placed,—a fess, and in chief three mullets; impaling a chevron between three swans. The destruction of the first stone is much to be lamented, as the date corresponds with the time that the Castle was besieged by the parliament's army, in the civil war. It is not

improbably it bore the record of some person who was slain at that memorable period. At the west end, is a stone, once enlaid with brass. There are the marks of the figure of a man, above him a coat of arms on each side of which is a child. In the corners, four squares are cut out, and around the whole is a marginal groove.

On the east of the north Norman arch, is a small mural marble to the memory of William Brown, of Arkall-house, who died Oct. 16th, 1826, aged 47 years; his son Benjamin Bickley Brown died March 16th, 1816, aged 9 months. On the opposite side of the same arch, is another small mural marble.

IN THE NORTH CHANCEL
OF THIS CHURCH,
ARE DEPOSITED THE REMAINS OF
CHARLES EDWARD REPINGTON, ESQ",
OF AMINGTON HALL, IN THE COUNTY OF WARWICK,
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
ON THE 27TH OF JUNE, 1837,
AGED 82 YEARS.

Arms above:—Quarterly, 1st and 4th, Gu., a fess indented Ermine, between six billets Arg.,—Repington; 2nd and 3rd, Arg., a fret Sa., and canton Gu.—Vernon. Impaling Gu., two helmets in chief Arg., and a garb in base Or—Cholmley. Crest:—a demi-antelope Gu., maned, bearded, tusked and horned Or, billeted Arg. Motto:—VIRTUS PROPTER SE. On the south wall opposite, is a marble monument,—Ruth, wife of James Oldershaw, surgeon, and daughter of John Wilcockson, of Works-worth, in Derbyshire, died March 15th, 1781, aged 46; James Oldershaw, Sept. 1st, 1788, aged 63.

In the north Transept, are ten tombstones. John and Mary Ann, infant children of Will. and Cath. Alport, were interred Feb. 22nd, 1797; their daughter Marianne died May 15th, 1821, aged 21. Ann, wife of Richard

Freeman, died Aug. 22nd, 1790, aged 47; Richard Freeman, Jan. 10th, 1807, aged 58. Williams Rice died June 10th, 1805, aged 64. John Freeman died Feb. 18th, 1814, aged 36; Richard Freeman, Dec. 21st, 1822, aged 42; John Freeman, Sept. 5th, 1823, aged 72; Thomas Freeman, Sept. 3rd, 1835, aged 58. Mary Robinson died Jan. 30th, 1821, aged 64. Thomas Freeman died Dec. 2nd, 1822, aged 77; Alice Freeman, March 2nd, 1826, aged 85. Edward Powell died July 1st, 1787, aged 55; Ann his wife, Dec. 4th, 1792, aged 61. Above the door leading into the Aisle, is a small mural marble stating that William Alport, of Comberford, died Dec. 5th, 1813, aged 53. On the side of the stairs leading into the north gallery, is a small neat mural monument, which, at the end of the last century, was placed on the south wall of the Chantry-chapel.

Hic situm est Monumentum, diuternitate Vero
 Temporis et bellis plusquam civilibus dirutum,
 Familis, non ita pridem florentis Gentis,
 amplius et honeste COMBERFORDIORUM:
 Qui de hoc Municipio cum in aliis tam
 in hoc Templo ædificando optime meruerunt:
 Domini COMBERFORDIÆ inclaruere Annis septingentis.
 In ROBERTO autem novissimo stirpis ANGLIACÆ
Staffordiensis viro Genus extinctum ploratur,
 Qui obiit A.D. 1671; et hic, cum consorte
 Domina CATHERINA BATES filijsque duobus
 MARIA et ANNA, suis Heredibus, Tumulo
 conditur. Nomen adhuc viget in stirpe
 Hiberniaca, quæ Regem JACOBUM secundum
 In Galliam secuta est; atque ibi ANGLIUNÆ,
 in Provincia de *Champagne* Dominio.
 insignitur 1725.

Arms above:—Gu., a talbot passant Arg.,—Comberford;
 impaling Sa., a fess between three hands erect Arg.,—
 Bates. Crest:—out of a ducal coronet Or, a peacock's
 head proper.

On the floor below.

Here lieth the Body of
SAMUEL BEARDSLEY,
of Wiggington, Gent., late Town-Clark
of this Borough: which Office he
accepted in the Year 1742, and executed
with Ability, Proberty, and Diligence,
till, on account of his ill-state of health,
he resigned in the year 1759.
 He died Nov. 13th., 1760, Aged 43.
 He married **ELIZABETH**, Relict of
THOMAS BOTT, of Coventry, Gent.;
 by whom he had no Issue.
 She, out of her conjugal Affection, caused
 this Stone to be placed in Remembrance
 of him.

Arms above:—Arg., two bars and a canton Gu. An escutcheon of pretence,—Quarterly, 1st and 4th, Vairy Ermine and Gu.,—Gresley; 2nd Gu., a lion rampant Arg.; 3rd, Or, a chevron Ermine, between three mullets Gu. pierced of the field,—Bott.

Twenty-six stones are placed in the south Transept. Mary Heath died Oct. 24th, 1780, aged 33. Of the children of Benjamin and Johanna Milchell, Elizabeth died Dec. 28th, 1725, aged 4; Mary, Jan. 4th, 1725, aged 1; Benjamin, Jan. 29th, 1726, aged 1. Littleton Wolverstan, gent., died Nov. 14th, 1769, aged 53. Dorothy, relict of Timothy St. Nicholas, died June 20th, 1748; “benevolentia, Pietate, ac precipue Charitate, nulli secunda.” John, son of Joseph and Ann Heath, died Oct. 29th, 1777, aged 11; John and Richard, their sons, died young; Ann, wife of Joseph, died June 10th, 1781, aged 40; Joseph, son of Joseph and Ann, Dec. 31st., 1833, aged 70. Henry Wood Roby died Apr. 6th, 1789, aged 1 year 11 mo. Sarah Dawes died Aug. 14th, 1724. Anne, wife of Joseph Hood, died Nov. 2nd, 1715, aged 28. The rev. Jonah Malkin died Aug. 22nd, 1765, aged 76; Abigail his wife, Oct. 7th, 1781, aged 76. Timothy Vaughton died June 1st, 1778, aged 78. Elizabeth Malkin died Sept. 20th, 1799, aged 64;

Sarah her sister, Sept. 21st, 1800, aged 74; Margaret their sister, widow of Ralph Prentice, May 29th, 1821, aged 88. Johanna Heath died Oct. 24th, 1801, aged 90; Joseph her son, July 10th, 1802, aged 71; Mary his daughter, Apr. 19th, 1798, aged 20; Thomas his son, Sept. 27th, 1821, aged 53. Ensign Benjamin Vaughton died June 13th, 1779, aged 63. Thomas, son of Tho. Blood, of Bohall-st., died Jan. 16th, 17.., aged 21. Benjamin Blood, gent., died May 7th, 1796, aged 74. Abigael, wife of Thomas Homer, died Sept. 22nd, 1701, aged 21; Thomas Homer, Feb. 27th, 1750, aged 73; Mary his wife, Oct. 4th, 1767; Dorothy their daughter, Nov. 26th, 1794. John Vaughton, gent., died Sept. 24th, 1777, aged 78; Humphry his brother, Aug. 24th, 1785, aged 83. John Clarke, M.D.; Elizabeth his widow died Nov. 10th, 1843, aged 82. Dinah, wife of John Meacham, gent., died Jan. 27th, 1790, aged 62; John Meacham, gent., July 21st, 1798, aged 68. Tho. Ball, gent. Harriott Fletcher died Nov. 29th, 1838, aged 72. John Freeman, of Amington, died March 29th, 1822, aged 32. Catherine Bloar died June 16th, 1772, aged 88; Mary her daughter, Sept. 1st, 1772, aged 54; Jane Bloar, June 10th, 1781, aged 61. Sarah Radford died Sept. 13th, 1728. John Gerrard, physician, died in April, 1698, in his 33rd year: he married Sarah, youngest daughter of Richard Taylor, of Ansley, and had one surviving son. Above the doorway into the south Aisle, is a small mural marble, bearing a female figure weeping over an urn, on which is inscribed, THY WILL BE DONE. Below, is this inscription.

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
 JOHN CLARKE, M.D.,
 OF LONDON AND OF WIGGINTON LODGE IN THIS COUNTY,
 BORN DECEMBER 19th, 1760; DIED AUGUST 31st, 1815.
Affection's last tribute
To the best of Husbands, & most exemplary of Men.

Arms:—Arg., on a bend Gu., between three pellets as many swans ppr. An escutcheon of pretence, quarterly, 1st and 4th, Az., on a bend between three lions' heads Arg., as many escallop-shells of the first; 2nd and 3rd, Arg., on a chevron Sa., three fleurs-de-liz of the first. Crest:—A lark with wings expanded ppr., holding in the beak an ear of wheat Or.

In the Chancel.—On the south wall of the Chancel, above the piscina, is a small tablet.

HERE VNDER LYNTH IN TERRED THE BODY OF
HENRY MICHELL, GENTL', AND MARGARET, HIS FIRST
WIFE; BY WHOM HE HAD YSSVE THREE SONNES AND
SEAVEN DAUGHTERS; AND BY KATHERINE, HIS SECOND
WIFE, WHOM HE LEFTE LIVINGE, TWO DAUGHTERS.
HE WAS IUSTICE OF PEACE, VNDER STEWARD, AND
TOWNECLARCKE OF TAMWORTHE 36 YERES; AND
DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 3. OF DECEMBER, 1629.

On the same wall, is a large monument.

M. S.

THO. WILLINGTON de Whateley in agro *Warwic.*, Generosi
Patris et avi

Ijsdem nominibus, fortuna, tandem tumulo
Prematura sorte Hæredis;

Juvenis ornatissimi

Eximij tam naturæ quam disciplinæ dotibus instructi,

Pectoris, nimirum, candore niveo;

Morum su'ima humanitate;

Fronte aperta, Fide integerrima.

Studio in patriam, pro annis ardentiori;

Ingenio prestanti, Doctrina haud vulgari;

Pietatis, deniq. (quod sum'um decus est) sensu penitiori.

Annum habuit {natalem} MDCLXXIIJ {diem mensis} {Septis. ix.
{fatalem} MDCXCVJ {Julij XVII.

Tali orbata filio

Ligubre marmor tenerrima crexit mater,

MARIA, filiarum altera JOHANNIS SWYNFEN, de Swynfen, amig',
Viri gravissimi, et inter huius saltem oppidi municipes satis celebris,

Utpote quorum olim, in sum'o regni senata,

Eximia cum laude, diu sustinuit vices.

Fratri Charissimo,

Haud proprius Sanguine;

Quam moribus ijsdem, castissimis, Suavissimis,

Virtutum consensu,

Et Pietatis necessitudine cognata;

Florentissima ilidem abrepta Ætate;

In eodem conquiescit Tumulo,

Anna e sororibus Iunior,

Obt. Novr. 6^o, 1711.

Arms above:—Gu., a saltire varyy Arg. and Az.; a crescent Or, for a difference. Crest:—a pine tree ppr., fruited Or.

On the north wall of the Chancel, at the east end, is another large monument.

Nere to this place,
lyeth interred
y^e body of ELIZABETH, daughter
of WILLIAM NOEL, of KIRKBY, in y^e
County of LEICESTER, Esq.,
Wife of RALPH ADDERLEY of ALDERWAS,
in y^e county of STAFFORD, Esq.;
by whome she had issue one sonne,
CHARLES.
She after married to RALPH FLYER, of HINTS,
in y^e said county of STAFFORD, Esq.,
and departed this life
the first day of May, A^o Dⁿⁱ MDCLXI,
aged LXXXII yeares.
To whose memory
S^a CHARLES ADDERLEY, of HAMMS,
in the county of WARWICK, K^{nt},
(her only sonne)
erected this Monument.

Arms above:—Arg., on a bend Az., three mascles of the first; impaling Or, fretty Gu., a canton Ermine.

On the ground, at a little distance, but within the communion-rails, is the stone of sir John Ferrers, knt., thus inscribed.

IF THOV HAST A MINDE TO KNOWE
WHOSE CORPES INTERRED LIES BELOWE,
LEAST THOV THINK THESE WORDS IN STONE
ARE ALL THAT'S LEFT OF HIM BEING GONE,
GIVE EARE VNTO THE VPRIHT TONGVE
OF WHOSEERE HE LIVED AMONGE,
THEN FREED FROM DOUBTE THOV WILT CONSENT
HE LEFT A CHOYCE MONUMENT.
ANNO DOMINI
1633.

Arms above:—Vairy Or and Gu.: those below, Sa., a bend of lozenges cotized Arg.—Puckering.

Close by the last, upright against the north wall, and enclosed in iron rails, stands the large modern marble monument of the Ferrers' family. However

anomalous in regard to the appropriateness of the design, it is very good in point of execution, and serves to exhibit an excellent specimen of the style prevalent in later times. The two principal figures, of the size of life, are arrayed in the ancient Roman costume, with the flowing wigs worn in the time of Charles II. Both kneel upon one knee, one with clasped, the other with extended hands. Above each of these, is a cupid, kneeling in the same way, who supports a large wreath of fruits and flowers finely carved that descends over a kind of sarcophagus from below a large funereal urn, surmounting the whole. Beneath the principal figures, in the centre, are carved in alto-relief a group of spears, a bow, arrows, trophies, banners, a helmet, armour, and other insignia of Roman warfare, an inverted torch, and the ghastly head of Medusa with her snaky hair.

Betwixt the two cupids, are the following arms. Quarterly of six; 1st, vairy Or and Gu.—Ferrers; 2nd, Frevile; 3rd, vairy Arg. and Az., a fess Sa.—Marmyon; 4th, bendy of six Or and Az.—Mountford; 5th, Bote-tourt; and 6th, Puckering. Supporters:—a horse, and a bear. On the right side of the alto-relief below, are the arms of Ferrers; impaling Az., a bend engrailed between six martlets Or—Pigot: and, on the left side, are, Ferrers; with an escutcheon of pretence, Arg., on a bend Sa., three mascles of the field—Carleton.

On a tablet between the two principal figures, is the following inscription, written by sir William Dugdale.¹

Hic situs est
JOANNES FERRERS de TAMWORTH-CASTRO Arm.,
filius HUMFRIDI FERRERS equ: aur: unicus;
antiquissimi FERRARIORVM stirpis
(olim de FERRARIIS et DERRY Comitum) hæres masculus,
ac præcipui ejusdem familiæ germinis, ultimus.

¹ Hamper's Life of Dugdale.

Qui quidem JOANNES, per hæredes femellas
de FREVILL, MARMION, MOUNTFORD, et BOTETOURT
(quondam hujus Regni Baronibus) oriundus,

EX ANNA conjuge

DUDLEI CARLETON, Equ. aurati,
serenissimo nuper Regi CAROLO ab intimis consilijs
Unius Clericorum ;

filium unicum, HUMFRIDUM, Equ. auratum,
ac DOROTHEAM filiam,
prænobili RICARDO, ARRANIE (in Hibernia) Comiti
(filio nobilissimi ORMONIE Ducis JACOBI
natu-secundo) enuptam suscepit.

Diem obiit XIII Augusti A° MDCLXX, Ætatis sue 52.

Juxta heic pariter situs est

HUMFRIDUS FERRERS, Eques auratus,
præfati JOANNIS filius unigenitus ;
qui ELIZABETHAM, GERVASII FIGOT de THURMPTON,
in agro NOTINGHAMENSI, filiam, in uxorem duxit :
e qua filiam unicam, nomine ANNAM,

modo superstitem genuit ;

patre tamen vivo, die sexto Septembris, A° MDCLXXVIII, obiit,

Ætat : sue anno 25.

Close below the last, is an altar-tomb of free-stone, with ornamented compartments on the sides, in each of which is the figure of an angel, supporting before him a shield plain or defaced. On the top, lies a slab of Derbyshire marble, once enlaid with brass but the whole now gone. There are, however, the outlines of a knight in armour, with his sword by his side, and, on his left hand, of a lady ; the heads of each resting on a separate cushion. Under him, are the marks of seven children, and under her, of about as many more. The principal figures are placed beneath a double canopy, apparently once very rich ; and, near the four corners, the marks of as many coats of arms remain. The inscription, also in brass, was once placed along the bevelled margin of the slab. From the circumstance of this tomb not being mentioned by Dugdale, it is probable it was destroyed before his time : and it is not known to whom it belonged. But we think ourselves correct, from its style and other circumstances, in

assigning it to sir Thomas Ferrers, second of the family who resided at Tamworth, and Ann his wife, daughter of Leonard Hastings. By his will, dated on the 10th of February, 1496-7, he bequeathed his body to be buried on the north side of the Choir, by the side of his wife; and directed that a marble should be laid over them, with their portraitures and arms in brass, and such inscription as his executors should think proper. He died on the 22nd. of August, 1498.

Below this, and under an arch between the Chancel and the Chantry-chapel, is another altar-tomb of freestone, with small plain shields on the sides alternating with a rose, oak-leaf, or another flower. It bears, on the top, the figures of a knight in armour, his head placed on a helmet and his feet on a dog, and of his lady, on his left side. The hands of both were raised in the attitude of prayer. The figures are very much mutilated; for, besides the loss of the arms of both figures, the legs of the man are completely gone down to the ancles; and the whole is so worn that very few of the details remain. To whom the monument was erected, is unknown; but it was probably to one of the Freviles, or to the first Ferrers. In Dugdale's time, 1640, it was in a perfect state; and he gives a drawing of it. Leland says, "There be divers fayre Tombes of Noblemen and Women, in the Este Parte of this Collegiat Church, where of one is of the Frevills, and his Christen Name, as some say, was Balduinus; and he was Lorde of Tamworthe Castle." Perhaps this is the one to which the great antiquary alluded.

In the middle of the floor of the Chancel, is a large tombstone once enlaid with brass, all of which is

now gone, although a small portion remained about forty years ago. It bears the outline of a figure, a priest apparently from the occurrence of the sacred chalice on each side of and beneath him. Out of his mouth issued a label that bore some brief ejaculation; and, at each corner, is the mark of a coat of arms. These are all surrounded by a broad groove for a marginal inscription, probably with the emblems of the four evangelist at the corners, from the circles there cut out. It is impossible to ascertain to whom the stone belonged: its original situation was at the west end of the edifice, from whence it was removed to the place which it at present occupies years ago. It is most likely the tombstone of one of the deans of the Church.

Adjacent are eight gravestones. John Hurt, gent., died March 5th, 1730, aged 32. William Brown died March 16th, 1773, aged 60; Beata Richards his wife, Sept. 13th, 1789, aged 73. Thomas, only son of William Nicholls, clothier, died Jan. 18th 1769, aged 62; his father, Jan. 18th, 1763. Mary, only daughter of William and Mary Nicholls, died June 14th, 1773, aged 59. Samuel Ball died Aug. 28th, 1772, aged 4; Frances, March 29th, 1779, aged 2; Elizabeth, Nov. 15th, 1789, aged 19; Elizabeth their mother, Nov. 13th, 1802, aged 56. Edward Ball, jun., died Feb. 12th, 1784, aged 40. Samuel Crosland died May 21st, 1767, aged 72; Ann his wife, Jan. 7th, 1768, aged 70. Edward Ball died April 12th, 1779, aged 67; Mary his wife, April 27th, 1782, aged 62.

At the east end of the Chantry-chapel or north Chancel, in the right hand corner, is placed a large plain altar-tomb, on which lies a flat gravestone.

Under this Stone lies
 ANN,
 the wife of EDWARD REPINGTON,
 of *Amington-Hall*, Esq.,
 the Last of y^e Ancient Family of the
Bassets of Claverton, in *somersetshire*.
 She died y^e 21 of Octo., 1720.
Reader, would you know her *Character*,
 Ask the Present Age, whose
 Posterity will transmit it to y^e Latest
 Times.

Arms above:—Repington; impaling Ermine, on a canton Gu., a mullet Or, pierced of the field,—Basset.

Under a low simple-pointed arch in the south wall, is the recumbent figure of a female praying, the head resting on a pillow, and the feet, on a dog, and the hands raised in prayer. The whole is ancient: it is much worn, and broken, and the features have been completely chiselled away. It is not known whom it represents.

On the ground beneath, is a large alabaster tombstone once with figures and a black-letter marginal inscription cut in and filled with pitch. But the whole is now effaced, except a few letters.

To the left adjoining, is a stone once enlarged with brass, bearing the outline of a man, with his sword by his left side. Near the upper corners, are the marks of two coats of arms, and near the lower, two circles are cut out: the whole is surrounded by a groove for the marginal inscription.

To the left adjoining, is an alabaster stone on which is cut, the lines being filled with pitch, the figure of a man praying, his head resting on a pillow, and a scrip by his right side. From Shaw, it appears to be the tomb of John, son of John Breton, esq., of Tamworth. Along the margin, is this inscription.

**Orate pro anima Joh'is
 qui
 obiit xj die mens. maii, Anno d'ni m^o d^o bii :
 cuius a'i'e p'picietur deus.**

To the left, against the south wall, is a large plain altar-tomb, devoid of any inscription. It appears to have belonged to the Comberfords, as the mural monument of that family was once placed over it.

Above the last, and under the first arch communicating with the Chancel, is a fine altar-tomb of marble, bearing the effigies of a knight in armour, and of his lady on his left side. His head rests on a helmet, and his feet on a dog. By the cushion, beneath the lady's head, is placed an infant: and at her feet a little dog crouches, holding her dress in its mouth. Along the side of the monument, are twelve fine canopied niches, once each containing a figure in the posture of prayer; but the fifth and eleventh are now entirely gone. The tomb was originally painted, as well as the arch above. It bears the marks of malicious mutilation; for the upraised hands have been broken off, and the faces with other portions of the principal figures chiselled away, as well as the heads and greater parts of the smaller ones at the side. Around the margin, is the following inscription.

**Hic iacent corpora Joh'is Ferrers, militis, et
 d'ne Dorothee uxoris eius. qui quid' Joh'es
 obiit x^o die mensis Julij, Anno d'ni m^o d^o
 xij. Et dicta d'na Dorothea obiit die
 me's' Anno d'ni m^o d^o Quor' a'i'abus
 propicietur deus. Amen.**

The monument originally stood in the Choir, before the image of St. Editha. It was perfect previously to the civil war; and is named by Leland. He says that the tomb of the father and mother of sir John was in the Church: it is now gone, and is unmentioned by Dugdale.

Beneath the second arch, is an altar-tomb of free-stone, bearing the figure of a woman, her head resting on a pillow; and, at her feet, a dog. It is very much worn; and the arms are broken away. The tomb exhibits the style prevalent in the middle of the fourteenth century. Along the side, are six compartments each containing a shield plain or defaced. We have every reason, except direct testimony, to believe that this is the monument of lady Joan, wife of Alexander de Frevile, and one of the coheirresses of Philip de Marmyon. After her husband's decease in 1328, she held the Castle for a considerable period.

About the middle of the floor, is a large stone once enlaid with brass. It bears the outline of a man praying, his feet upon a dog. From his mouth, issued a label. On each side of him, are placed six small scrolls, and one beneath him. There is a groove for a marginal inscription, with circles at the corners.

Adjoining the end of it, is a tombstone thus inscribed.

SAMUEL LANGLEY,	{	SON OF THO., Y ^r EXCELL ^t M ^r OF
		MIDDLEWICH, IN CHESHIRE,
		B ^r OF THO., FELLOW AND
		ORNAMENT OF C. COL. CAM.,
		FATH ^r OF THOMAS, VIC. OF
		KINGSBURY,
		HUSBAND OF SARA 44
		YEARS.
		FROM A FELLOWSHIP IN C. C. CAM.,
		INVITED TO SWEETENHAM, IN
CHESHIRE; THENCE HITHER, WHERE		
HE SPENT ONE HALFE OF HIS		
LIFE. TIL WITHIN 4 YEARS OF		

HIS DECEASE WAS NEVER HINDERED
FROM PREACHING IN COURSE
TWICE EVERY LORD'S DAY SO
ELABORATELY AS TO INFORM THE
LEARNED IN DIFFICULT TEXTS,
AND YET EDIFY THE MEANEST.
HE DYED JANUARY 20th, 1694,
ÆTAT. 72.

On the north wall, between the second and third windows, is a small monument recording that John Whyte died Jan. 13th, 1788, aged 82; Mary Hayward his sister, May 13th, 1788, aged 84. There are twenty-eight other flat stones placed in the floor. Charles Edward Repington. William Radford died March 8th, 1766, aged 44. Edward, son of Edward Symonds, mercers, died Jan. 14th, 1723, aged 73; Anne his wife, March 5th, 1748, aged 88. Ann, wife of Samuel Radford, died July 5th, 1728, aged 39; Samuel, July 30th, 1735, aged 47; Sarah their daughter, July 22nd, 1768, aged 50. Joseph Rice, sen., died April 8th, 1780, aged 66. Edward Davenport died April 10th 1752, aged 52; Elizabeth his wife, Dec. 21st, 1755, aged 60. Elizabeth, wife of the late John Meacham, died Oct. 9th., 1775, aged 66. Sarah, daughter of Richard and Sarah Blood, died Sept. 28th, 1775, aged 46. John Meacham died July 23rd, 1747, aged 46; Mary, Penelope, and Thomas, children of John and Elizabeth, all died young; Fitz-William Meacham, their eldest son, died Aug. 12th, 1766, aged 38. Lieut. James Gray died Nov. 25th, 1791, aged 77; Ann his wife, Dec. 17th, 1788, aged 68. Thomas Whitworth died Sept. 5th, 1686. Ann, daughter of John and Ann Shore, of Edstanston-hall, near Wem, Salop, died Nov. 2nd, 1734, aged 7 years. Matthew Birch, gent., died Dec. 10th, 1778, aged 66. Anne, widow of Thomas Lort, gent., of Yoxall, died Aug. 6th, 1719, aged 79.

Ralph Triplet, gent., son and heir of Ralph, late of Salop, M.D., and Mary his wife, died Sept. 7th, 1701, aged 36: he left only two sisters,—Mary, wife of Tho. Langley, clerk,—and Elizabeth. Robert Bage died Sept. 1st, 1801, aged 72; Robert Charles Bage, March 9th, 1802, aged 13; Elizabeth, April 21st, 1805, aged 72. Samuel Green Jemson died Oct. 15th, 1794, aged 23. Mary Birch died July 13th, 1775, aged 67. Samuel, second son of Samuel—minister of Tamworth—and Sarah Langley, died June 5th, 1681. Esther Langley, widow, died Aug. 16th, 1742, aged 85; Rebecca, her daughter, wife of James Taylor, died July 3rd, 1755, aged 66; James Taylor of Birmingham, Sept. 6th, 1758, aged 66. Susanna, daughter of Waldive and Susanna Willington, of Hurley-hall in Warwickshire, died June 27th, 1694, aged 24. Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel and Hannah Littlefear, died April 5th, 1725, aged 7. William, son of Will. and Denis Wooton, died Oct. 29th, 1686, aged 17. Elizabeth Nicholls, spinster, died Aug. 20th, 1768, aged 59. William Nicholls died Jan. 18th, 1763, aged 80. Thomas Rice died Aug. 14th, 1793, aged 47; Eleanor his wife, Sept. 15th, 1814, in her 72nd year. Alice, wife of Rich. Francis Alexander Freeman, died April 11th, 1815, aged 29. Joyce Plaisted, widow, 3rd daughter of Stanford Wolverstan, esq., of Statfold, died Oct. 11th, 1775, aged 54.

There are a few old tombstones mentioned by different writers, which are now gone.

Lying within the communion rails.

Here lieth Sir Humfrey Ferrers, Knight, who married Anne, one of the daughters of Sir John Packington, of Hampton-Lovet, in the Countie of Worcester, knight; by whom he had issue three daughters and one son. His age was thirty and three years when he departed this life; and he was here interred on the second day of November, in the year of our Lord 1633.

A stone upright against the south wall of the Chancel.

Here lieth interred the body of Clement Fisher, late of Wilnecoat, Gent. He married Ann, the daughter of sir John Savage senior of Wilnecoat, knt. His second wife was Elizabeth, the daughter of Humphrey Arden, gent., of the family of Parkhall, in Warwick shire. God grant us a joyful resurrection. He dyed Sept. the 8th, 1689, aged 77.

In the Chantry-chapel, the flat stone of William Repington, esq., of Amington, and Juliana his wife. He died on the 30th of January, m d xxxxi. "Cujus anime propicietur Deus."

On another flat stone, with Repington arms.

HERE LIETH THE BODY OF SEBRIGHT REPINGTON, ESQ., LATE OF AMINGTON. HE DYED THE XVIII DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1698, AGED 67 YEARS. THE POOR RELIEV'D WERE AT HIS DOOR, THE RICH WERE CHEARFUL MADE, DEVOUT AND JUST HE WAS, WHAT MORE OF MANKIND CAN BE SAID ?

Upon the north wall of the south Transept, are placed two tablets, on which are inscribed the names of benefactors to the poor of the town and parish. These, however, it is unimportant to give.

PARISH-REGISTER.

The Parish-register was commenced during the reign of Philip and Mary, in 1556-7. Down to the year 1598, the original records have not been preserved; but they were copied by John Oldacres, curate, and William Wightwick and Nicholas Vaughton, churchwardens. The first eight pages contain baptisms alone. These are entered in the subsequent part of the book, and date only from the first year of queen Elizabeth. The copied part is not complete. There are some omissions, chiefly owing, it would seem, to deficiencies in the old book.

There is, however, only one place where the void is very considerable,—from 1560 to 1563.

In these records, there are numerous valuable and interesting entries, the principal of which we here give.

Marche, 1558, Baptized.

1 Will'm Stokes, y^e sone of John Stokes. [First entry.]
Anno dom' 1556, Marche.

4 where Christened { ^{Henrie}
& Anne } Hygg'es. [Earliest entry.]
October, 1576.

14 Was cr. Henry, sone of Mr. Cleme't Fysher.

29 was bur. Henry, sone of Mr. Cleme't Fysher.
January, 1576.

4 was bur. Richard Degge, clerke of y^e churche.
April, 1578.

14 wer M. Richard Walker, cler., & Ellen Hunter.
November, 1578.

26 was cr. Lettys, d. of Mr. Cleme't Fysher.
Maye, 1579.

22 was bur. John Shemond, Ve'bi minister.
Januarye, 1582.

21 was bur. Edward Richardson, al's Harison, who was
slayn in y^e market-place, y^e 19th day.
November, 1590.

15 was cr. Joice, d. of Roger Molde, preach'.
Julye, 1592.

14 was bur. Mr. Phillippe Repyngton, Gent.
September, 1592.

4 was bur. Thomas Wryght, y^e clarke.
April, 1599.

mem' y^t y^e 30th day of this Aprill, Robert, Earle of
Essex, went fro' Drayton Bassett towards Ireland,
w^h an hoste of men, to make Warre againste y^e Earle
of Tyroone, an Irishma'.

July, 1599.

Mem' y^t y^e 19th daie of July, was famously sole'nized at Kinsbury y^e honorable bur. of y^e old Lady Ferrers, y^e La. Willoughbie, mother of Mr. Edw. Devereux, of castle-Bromwiche.

September, 1599.

28 The same day, y^e noble Earle of Essex came out of Ireland, wth a motion of Peace.

September, 1606.

5 was bur. in a ditche William Tomlinson, papist.

November, 1609.

2 was bur. Robert Michell, Clarke Church.

Septembe', 1612.

20 was bapt. James, sone of John Reade, preacher.

August, 1613.

13 was interred by night Thomas Orton, of Ami'gton, recusant.

March, 1614.

7 The same night before, was interred Ellen Aucott, recusant.

Memorand' that in the moneth of november, one thousand six hundreth and sixteene, was erected in the Church-yard of Tamworth, by the apoyntment of Mr. Martyn Pringe, a graue stone over the bodye of Margrett Sponer, wyffe of Lawrence Sponer, of Tamworth: shee being layd in p'sonall forme in brass, with a bowle and a spoone in hyr hands, wth this inscription in latine, 'Quisquis eris qui transieris, Sta, perlege, plora,' recorded the sayd tyme wittnesses.

Marche, 1618.

15 The 15th day, was buried Leister, y^e sone of S^r Rowland Ridgley, Knight.

Aprill, 1620.

- 9 The ninth day, was Bapt. Dorothe, daught^r of Mr. Iohn Packington, esq^r.

August, 1623.

- 20 was interred Robert Freman, a Recusant.

March, 1624.

- 3 was bur. Henry Baron, Schoolemaster.

Aprill, 1631.

- 27 Mar. Thomas Blake, Minister of Tam., & Jane Wagstaff, of Drayton basset.

Nouember, 1635.

- 2 Bu. Thomas Euorite, slaine by a fall, poynting y^e steple.

Wortley, the sonne of S^r Henry Griffithe, Baronet, by Margaret his lady, borne the twentieth day of January, and baptizd the eight and twentieth of the same, anno 1636.

May, 1637.

- 19 In. Joseph, Sonn of widdow Deaine, who was drowned in striuing for to fatch his hat, in y^e Anquor.

Aprill, 1640.

- 25 Bur. Mr. Sarles, Gent., fro' Coton Hall.

From May, 1642, to June, 1644, the Register is blank, except a few memoranda. From November, in the latter year, it has been continued regularly.

May, 1642.

- 23 Desideratur hic catalogus Baptizator', Maritator', Sepultorumq', quor' no'i'a hoc non inscribantur libro, propter incuria' Notarior' in sched'is apertis ea reliquentiu'. sic iniquitate temporu' perierunt. ita testor.

Theoph. Lord, Mr. in Art.

September, 1643.

About the beginning of this moneth, Mr. Theoph.

Lord was called to be the preacher at Tamworth, both by the Governo^r and Towne, but was forbid to doe any seruise publikly, exepting preaching, as his duty.

May, 1644.

About the latter end of this moneth of May, the ho'ble Comittee of safety for the County of Warw. at Coventrey sitting, desired Mr. Theoph. Lord, then preacher, to supply the whole duty of the min'r in Tamworth,—the former man that chall'nged the place to be his, goeing away about 2 months before, and never aquanting the Towne with his intention. for some time there was not any 1644.

June, 1644.

In hoc mense, Incepit Mr. Theoph. Lord officia publica p'agere; sed libro a clerico p'ochiali sibi negato, defectus nimiu' admiss'; sed no'i'a quotquot hic fideliter inseruntur.

The entries following are evidently written from memory or imperfect notes; for sometimes the date and sometimes the Christian name is omitted.

November, 1644.

At the beginning of this month, I tooke the booke into my owne hand; and here you haue not one name missing of such that were at Tamw' either Baptizd, buried, or married. This averrs,

Theoph. Lord, minister.

December, 1644.

19 buried the body of Will^m White, a souldier vnder Captaine Tho. Layfield: he was slayn in the field.

March, 1644.

24 Cast into the ground, the body of Ellen wife of Rich^d Ensor, a popeling.

December, 1645.

- 3 buried the body of Jonathan Toone, a souldier vnder captaine Flower: he was slaine in the field ag^t y^e enemy.

March, 1645.

- 21 buried the body of Richard Vaughton, of Comberford: he was slain by the enemie at Lichfield, in fighting in y^e worre.

June, 1646.

- 14 baptizd Rob^t, son of Robert and Mary Brabin, of Tam. Rob^t the father was cruelly murdered by the enemye in Litchfield Close, after he was taken vpon the enemy's Sally.

- 19 buried the body of Henry, son of Tho. Piccard, of Cumb., an infant: his father Thom. was slaine by the enemy in Lichfield Close, about March last ij day.

- 29 buried the body of Richard Harding, of Tamworth: he was once one of the company, but was put out bec. he was an Ale-seller.

August, 1646.

- 25 buried the body of Thomas Paget, a souldier vnder Capt. Bowes: he was slaine.

January, 1650.

- 13 Buried the Body of Mr. Theophilus Lord, Minister.
July, 1651.

- 24 William Rock, minister of the Gospell, and Mary Boyes were married.

June, 1657.

- 11 was buried our reverend Pastor, Mr. Thomas Blake, minister of Tamworth.

January, 1663.

- 1 baptized William, the Son of S^r William Boothbey,

- Knight and baron^y, and Dame Hills his wife, of Tamworth.
November, 1665.
- 14 Maryed Robert Reppington & Margery Crispe.
October, 1666.
- 1 Married Mr. George Antrobus & Mrs. Sarah Burgesse.
August, 1672.
- 1 Buryed Elizabeth, the wife of Thomas Sylvester of Bolehall street, together with foure male infants of hers borne before their time.
September, 1676.
- 3 buried Frances downe, of Tamworth, Clark of the Church.
May, 1677.
- 12 Married Symon Biddulph & Dorothy Reppington.
Aprill, 1678.
- 4 Buryed Mrs. Katherine Adderley, of Tamworth.
July, 1679.
- 27 Buryed Mary, the wife of Ralph Adderly, of Tamwth, Esq^r.
April, 1685.
- 22 Buryed Mr. John Allen, Towne-Clerk of Tamworth.
September, 1689.
- 10 buryed Mr. Clement Fisher, of Wilnecoate.
January, 1693.
- 23 Buried Mr. Samuel Langley, of Bolehall, and Minister of the Gospell at Tamworth.
July, 1708.
- 26 Bur. Mr. George Antrobus, schoolemaster of Tamworth, whose memory ought to be perpetuated to Eternity.
October, 1710.
- 16 bur. Mr. Samuel Collins, Minister of Tamworth.

July, 1724.

16 Bur. Mr. Nicholas Parker, Town Clerk of Tamworth.
August, 1724.

4 Bur. Mr. George Antrobus, Minister of Tamworth.
December, 1724.

10 About this time, began y^e Small Pox in Tamworth.
April, 1730.

24 Bur. Dr. Sam^l Shaw, Schoolmaster of Tamworth.
May, 1731.

9 bur. Robert Garret, late parish Clark here.
March, 1736-7.

10 Bur. y^e Rev^d Mr. Thomas Worthington, a non-jurer
of Tam.
March, 1741.

13 Bur. Beilby Laycock, Town Clerk of Tam.
July, 1742.

11 Bur. Jonathan Kendall, parish Clerk of Tam.

CHURCH-YARD.

Attached to the Church is a large Cemetary, in the south part of which the edifice stands. Originally, it was not so extensive as it is at the present time; for, from time to time, parts have been added to it, as circumstances have required.

A piece of ground on the north-east side, was given by Mrs. Grace Wolverston, of Statfold; and the donation was afterwards confirmed by Edward Eggerton, esq., of Harlaston, in Staffordshire. On the 24th of July, 1730, it was consecrated by the right rev. Edward Chandler, bishop of the diocese. In 1797, a considerable addition was made upon the north-west, and consecrated, on the 28th of July, by the bishop,—the hon. James

Cornwallis. For this enlargement, the earl of Leicester, and Robert Peel, esq.,—the late sir Robert,—each presented two houses to the parish. And a little more than fifteen years ago, a third piece was added on the west side, and consecrated by bishop Ryder.

As in most other country-places, the Church-yard was anciently separated from the surrounding land by low stone-walls, and was accessible by a lich-gate and stile.¹ These, however, as the enlargements took place, were removed, and gave place to quickset hedges, and walls on the west. In 1797, the walls were first erected along the north and east sides. The old south boundary, facing the street, once consisted of a steep bank, with wooden rails and gates. In 1821, the present stone wall was built, with iron palisades and gates at either end and in the middle. The path on the east side was stopped in 1843, with the entrance into the Church-yard by New College-lane.

The Church-yard presents nothing worthy of notice. It is not even remarkable for its arrangement and neatness. The cross has long disappeared, in iconoclastic times; and none of the ancient tombstones have survived to our days. The majority of the grave-stones date from the middle of the past century: exceedingly few are so old as the seventeenth. The only stone, which would attract the eye of a stranger, is the obelisk, which was erected by public subscription to commemorate the unfortunate deaths of six females, in a fire at the Castle Inn, during the autumn of 1838.² It stands in the north-west corner, by the path, and within the piece of ground last added to the Cemetery.

¹ Court-rolls.

² This melancholy accident occurred on the 2nd of November, about four o'clock in the morning. The fire originated accidentally, and was confined principally to the

DEANERY.

Between the east side of the Church-yard and Gun-gate, are situated the ruins of the ancient residence of the deans. They are now very scanty, consisting only of two long parallel walls. These are built of rag-stone, with tiles very frequently inserted. In the north wall, there are some traces of a window; and, at the end towards the Church, part of a fire-place, and of a chimney stands. The chimney, notwithstanding its long exposure to the weather, is still blackened with soot. In Shaw's time, a wall on the west connected these two together: it was removed when the brick wall was built. Shaw, however, has fortunately preserved a drawing of it.¹ There were two semicircular arches in

bar and rooms adjacent. It broke out when all the inmates were asleep. The six maid-servants slept at the top of the house; all the others escaped. As the staircase had become inaccessible, attempts were made to rescue the servants by a ladder, placed at their window; but nothing could be seen or heard of them. Unfortunately a report was spread, that they were safe in a neighbouring house. The mistake was discovered when the fire was nearly subdued. A policeman entered their room, and found five lying on the floor quite dead. The fire had not reached them; but the heat and smoke had been intense. Indeed, as a witness observed at the inquest, they had been literally "baked to death." They were probably dead before their rescue was attempted, perhaps before assistance arrived to suppress the fire. They had endeavoured to escape, for their door was found open; but they had evidently been driven back. The bar-maid, too, who slept in a separate room, had tried to make her escape. Her body was found upon the landing of the stairs. She also had been suffocated. The names of the poor sufferers were, Mary Ann Smith, bar-maid; Harriet Bonner, cook; Mary Gardiner, kitchen-maid; Mary Ann Booth, waiter; Harriet Buswell, chambermaid; and Mary Chatterton, kitchen-maid. One had come to her situation on the preceding day, and another was to have left on the succeeding morning. At the inquest the verdict of "Accidental death" was given.

This awful catastrophe created great sensation in the town and surrounding country. Five of the unfortunate females were interred, on the 6th, in one large common grave in this Church-yard: the body of Mary Ann Smith was removed by her friends. The funeral procession was very long and solemn. Thirty females arrayed in white bore the five coffins. The clergy, the coroner's jury, the parish-authorities, and numerous gentlemen of the town, followed. Afterwards a subscription was raised, and the monument built, as a perpetual memorial of this melancholy accident. As this stone is the only memorial of the accident, we may correct an error in the date which it bears. It is there said that the occurrence took place during the night of the 2nd of November. It ought to have been the morning of the 2nd, as the fire happened after midnight of the 1st of the month.

¹ This writer erroneously calls them the ruins of the nunnery. It has been asserted that the Church was erected on the site of the Anglo-Saxon Convent. This statement is not substantiated by any ancient authority; and we have great reason to discredit it:

it. It is evident from these, and from the existing remains, that the Deanery was built in the Anglo-Saxon style of architecture, and must probably have been erected before the Norman invasion.

Between the two walls, there is at present a garden. Formerly a deep cellar existed here. But, some years ago, in consequence of the vaulted roofs having begun to sink, they were completely filled up with soil. The ruins of the Deanery are now only used to give support to sties, outbuildings, and sheds. But, perchance, as they attract the antiquary's eye, they serve to bring to his mind the pleasing recollection of ages long past by, too fair and good to be for ever flown.

THE CONVENT.

In the time of the Anglo-Saxons, during the reign of Ethelred II., there was a religious house in Tamworth. Wulfric or Alfric Spot, a chief councillor of state, and nearly related to the king, in his will, made a bequest to it, in common with the monks of Burton-upon-Trent; of whose monastery he was the founder. The words of his will are these:—"Item, do Conventui in Tamwurthin fundum illum apud Langandune, (Longdon co. Stafford) sicut ipsi (monachi) illum mihi ante hoc locarunt, et habeant ipsi usum fructum (ejus) dimidium, et dimidium monachi Byrtonensis, cum in cibariis, tum in hominibus, tum in pecudibus, tum in rebus omnibus."¹ Wulfric Spot died in the year 1010.²

But concerning this Convent, particularly as to the time at which it was erected, and the person by whom it was founded, there exists great diversity of opinion. Dugdale states his ignorance whether it belonged to monks or nuns.³ All other great authorities are agreed that it was a house of religious ladies, founded by the saint Editha, in honour of whom the present Church was dedicated.

But another difficulty is here presented. There are three females named Editha, all members of the Anglo-Saxon royal family, whose connection with Tamworth has been asserted by different writers. These are the daughters of Ecgberht the Great, of Eadweard the

1 Dugdale's Mon. Angl. 2 Shaw's Staffordsh. 3 Dugdale's Warwicksh.

Elder, and of Edgar. To the latter, the foundation has been attributed by Leland,¹ Camden,² and Speed.³ It is remarkable, however, that both Leland and Speed, in other works, vary in their statements, and mention the daughter of Eadweard as the foundress. Tanner discredits their assertions respecting the daughter of Edgar, because there is "no mention of this in any old historian, nor in the legends of that St. Edith, nor in the traditionary account of the foundation of Polesworth: and if" he adds, "there was any St. Edith that bore relation to this place—Tamworth,—it must be she that was daughter to K. Egbert and sister to K. Ethelwulph."⁴ But it is evident, that the very same reasoning applied by Tanner against Leland, Camden, and Speed, may be directed against himself. History and tradition are both silent concerning the daughter of Ecgeberht in reference to Tamworth. On the contrary, it is clearly evident that she never had anything to do with the town.

John and Henry W. Roby, in the first and only part of their "History of Tamworth" which was published, have given reasons supported by the authority of some ancient writers, to prove that Editha, daughter of Eadweard the Elder, was the foundress of the Convent of Tamworth. We quote their own words.

"The marriage of Sithrick, the Anglo-Danish King of Northumbria, with a sister of Athelstan (consequently a grand-daughter of Alfred, a daughter of Edward I., a niece of Ethelfleda, and sister of Edmund I. and Edred, and an aunt of Edwy and Edgar,) is recorded by almost every monkish historian who treats of that period, as Florence of Worcester, William of Malmsbury, John

1 Collect. vol. 1, p. 81.

2 Britannia.

3 Catalogue of religious houses.

4 Notitia Monastica.

Brompton, &c. The name of the bride is generally omitted, but Matthew of Westminster calls her Eadgitha; which name later authors have generally softened to Editha, under which appellation she is noticed by Polydore Vergil. The scene of the bridal is stated in the Saxon Chronicle (noticed by Turner as the only history he has met with which particularizes the place,) to have been at Tamworth. Now it is perfectly congenial with the spirit and feelings of those times for this Editha, after her divorce, to have selected the place where her earlier vows were given to an earthly husband, to dedicate her later vows to heaven. She probably considered this town as peculiarly marked out for her retirement from the world, as it had witnessed the two greatest misfortunes of her life, the death of her excellent aunt Ethelfleda, and the marriage of herself with the brutal and irreligious Sithric. But it is not on mere probability that her return to Tamworth, and her religious profession in this town, rest. In the life of St. Edith, the daughter of Edgar (which Edith, by the concurrent testimony of all the old historians was a nun at Wilton, and certainly appears not to have had the slightest connection with Tamworth,) written by an uncertain author, preserved in Leland's Collectanea, mention is made of "Eadgitha, Edgari germina, abbas de Tameworth, in provincia Staffordensi." It will be remembered that Sithric's widow was aunt to Edgar. Hugh White, better known by his Latinized name of Hugo Candidus, after mentioning the burial places of many saints, adds, "et in Thamwrthe sancta Edgitha."¹ This can only mean the daughter of Edward I. for the daughter of Egbert was buried at Polesworth, and the daughter of

¹ *Historia Comobil Burgensis.*

Edgar at Wilton. Thomas Rudborne is most explicit on the point; he says, "Genuit etiam iste Edwardus Senior ex Egwinna filiam nomine Edgytham quæ nupsit Sirichro Comiti Northanhumbroꝝ, quæ et requiescit apud Tanwitham, et pro sancta colitur." Lambarde¹ gives implicit credence to the testimony of Rudborne, and states her residence and burial at Tamworth, on his authority. Even Speed himself tells us, that Editha, daughter of Edward I. after the decease of Sithricke, the Danish King of Northumberland, "obtained of her brother's gift the castle of Tamworth, in the countie of Warwicke, where she began a monastery of nunnes, and therein lived, died, and was interred, and both the monastery and body afterwards was removed from thence to Pollesworth."² If then, from his own history, the nunnery of Tamworth was founded in the reign of Athelstan, or one of his brothers, Speed's subsequent statement, in the Catalogue of Religious Houses, that it was founded by Editha, daughter of Edgar, was most probably copied, without consideration, from Leland or Camden. Baker, though of no great value as an authority, may yet be quoted as confirming our opinion. He says of the daughters of Edward Senior, "the eldest was married to Sithricke, the Danish King of Northumberland, and he deceasing, she entered into a monastery which she began at Tamworth in Warwickshire, and there died."³ It must not be concealed that Matthew of Westminster asserts that the widow of Sithric, "virginitate sibi reservata," retired, not to Tamworth but to Polesworth (Pollesberia).⁴ The subsequent removal of her body to that monastery, together

¹ Hist. Major Ecclesie Wintoniensis. ² Dictionarium Anglie Topographicum.

³ Hist. of Great Britain.

⁴ Chronicle of the Kings of England.

⁵ Flores Historiarum.

with the confusion of the same name in two saints venerated there, may reasonably account for a mistake.

The correct appropriation of these three royal and sainted recluses seems to be,

Editha, daughter of Egbert, sister of Ethelwulf, and aunt of Alfred, was Abbess of Polesworth.

Editha, daughter of Edward I., sister of Athelstan, and aunt of Edgar, was Abbess of Tamworth.

Editha, daughter of Edgar, sister of Edward II., and aunt of Edmund II., was a Nun of Wilton.

They all died, and were buried in their respective towns.

We can add little to the authorities quoted in confirmation of the opinions that Editha, daughter of Eadweard, was the foundress of the Convent at Tamworth, and that afterwards she was canonized. Rudborne's evidence upon this point seems conclusive. It is sufficient to say, that no author, to whom we have had access, directly denies these statements, or gives others that would invalidate them, except those whom we have mentioned. It is true that this Editha is not at the present time named in the calendar; nor is she mentioned in the extensive "Acta Sanctorum" of the Bollandists, or in the more recent "Lives of the Saints", by the rev. Alban Butler. Numerous of the Anglo-Saxon saints were canonized, not by the pope, but by the local bishops. Hence many attained a very limited reputation; and after the English was separated from the Roman church, their invocation became frequently disused.

The assertion of Matthew of Westminster deserves notice, for Editha of Tamworth is named in local records as a virgin saint. He states that the marriage of Editha

to Sihtric was only nominal. In those times, such was not uncommonly the case. Several well known and illustrious examples might be cited: and this was more likely to occur when the political conversion of the chief party was more than suspicious.

The confusion of the three saints seems principally to have originated with Leland. He certainly fell into error in attributing the foundation of the nunnery at Polesworth to Robert de Marmyon; which shows he had no exact information on this point. Camden and Speed evidently followed him. The festival of Editha, daughter of Edgar, was kept annually in September; whilst that of the Editha of Tamworth was observed in the month of July. We may safely conclude they were not the same persons.

The Convent did not remain very long at Tamworth. Soon after the Conquest, it was incorporated with the nunnery of Polesworth. The cause of the removal is easily understood, if the assertion of Speed be correct, that the brother of Editha bestowed the Castle upon her, which she converted into her dwelling. Robert de Marmyon must have displaced the nuns, to take possession of his newly acquired domains. But if an inaccuracy in Speed's statement should exist, we may still suppose that they were expelled, when this nobleman drove those of Polesworth from his lands; and that, when he restored them, he incorporated both societies together. Perhaps he may have built the Church, in recompense for the injury which the nuns of Tamworth had received at his hands.

THE CHAPELS.

There are several Chapels in Tamworth unconnected with the church of England. The first which demands our notice is the

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL.

Before the erection of this building, the Catholics had a mission established in the neighbourhood, at Coton. There mass was celebrated weekly in a humble cottage. In 1828, the Chapel was commenced, and completed in the following year; when it was opened, on the feast of St. John the Baptist,—in honour of whom it is dedicated,—by the right rev. Dr. Thomas Walsh, bishop of Cambysopolis, who presides over the Central district of England.

The Chapel is a neat and tolerably large structure. It has no pretension to architectural merit, as it is in the Egyptian style. Adjoining it, is a commodious house for the residence of the priest. The erection of the whole cost 2200*l*.

Internally the Chapel is very plain. The painting over the altar is fine; and was presented by the right hon. the earl of Shrewsbury. It represents our Lord healing the infirm man at the pool of Bethesda. It was painted by one of the Bolognese school, and was formerly in the collection of Lucien Buonaparte. It was purchased by the noble donor at Rome.

Attached to this foundation is a school; and very recently a burial-ground has been consecrated. The Chapel was registered on the 1st of November, 1837, as a licensed place for the celebration of marriages.

The rev. James Kelly has continued pastor from the erection of the building to the present time.

UNITARIAN CHAPEL.

The Unitarians erected a very neat Chapel, several years ago. It was formerly rather obscurely situated, being placed on the east side of Colehill, and at some distance from the street. But since the formation of Victoria-road, it has been brought much more into public sight.

The architecture of this Chapel is very unpretending; it is built of brick. There is a school attached to it.

The rev. W. Parkinson is the present minister.

BAPTISTS', METHODISTS', INDEPENDENTS', AND FRIENDS' MEETING-HOUSES.

The Meeting-house of the Baptists, a small plain building, was erected about forty years ago. It is situated at the bottom of Peel-street. That of the Methodists, in Bolebridge-street, was erected in 1816; and the one belonging to the Independents, in Alder-gate-street, in 1827. The Friends' Meeting-house stands in Lichfield-street. The existence of these institutions is all we can note.

THE CASTLE.

HISTORY.

The information which we possess concerning the Castle of Tamworth during the time that England was held by the Anglo-Saxons, is very scanty. Its erection by Ethelflæda,—its capture by Anlaf,—and its conjectured conversion into a Convent,—are the only points which are known concerning it. These matters have been spoken of, in other parts of our history.

When the kingdom fell into the hands of William, duke of Normandy, after the battle of Hastings, in 1066, he bestowed this stronghold with lands in the neighbourhood, amongst which were the town and lordship of Polesworth with Waverton or Wareton and Stipershill, upon Robert de Marmyon, lord of Fontenay, in Normandy, a baron of great valour and fame. The king also gave this distinguished follower of his fortunes the manor of Scrivelsby and numerous possessions in Lincolnshire.

It is true that no record of the grant has hitherto been found, and that the immediate proof is only based upon a faulty legend. Indeed, there are some circumstances which seem actually to invalidate the fact. In the Battle-abbey roll, professing to contain a list of those who came into England with the Norman adventurer, the name of the first Marmyon is stated to have been Roger, and not Robert; and other documents

contain the same assertion. The Domesday is silent as to the grant, and the name of Marmyon is unknown in it. And we have positive evidence that, previously to the time of Stephen, the Castle was held by Robert Dispencer.

These may appear to be very formidable objections; but a little consideration will remove them. Very slight doubt can be entertained, that Robert de Marmyon was the same person as Rodbert or Robert Dispencer or Dispensator, brother of the noted Urso d' Abitot. Those who are at all acquainted with ancient history, are aware of the frequent changes which were made in the names of persons from circumstances associated with them. An individual might alter his surname, when he removed his residence, or was appointed to any particular office. The name, Despencer, merely signifies that the person was the king's steward,—an honourable post which Marmyon must have held. Thence he would derive his common designation, in conformity with the general practice of his times. This conjecture is capable of being fully confirmed. The immediate successor of Robert Dispensator is nowhere recorded; and the estates named in Domesday as belonging to him were all, at least so far as they can be traced, in the tenure of the Marmyon family, at a little later period. His possessions are enumerated as lying at four places in Warwickshire; at fifteen, in Lincolnshire; at seventeen, in Leicestershire; and at one place, in Gloucestershire. Those in the county of Warwick, were at Marston, Filingelei or Fillongley, Leth or Lea, and Bertanestone or Barston. Finally, we have direct evidence that the Castle was held both by Robert de Marmyon and Robert Dispensator; therefore the only

legitimate conclusion, which can be drawn, is that they were the same.

Nor can we be surprised at the silence of Domesday respecting the Castle. Polesworth is also omitted. In fact, the minor possessions of Robert Dispensator seem alone to be noticed. This only strengthens our opinion that the Castle had been previously granted by the king, and the service fixed, so that the commissioners left it unnoticed.¹

We find, indeed, amongst some old documents, and particularly in the Battle-abbey roll, that the name of the first Marmyon is not written Robert but Roger. The authenticity of this celebrated roll is so small, and it contains so many errors, discovered by comparing the various copies, that no reliance can be placed upon it. It is generally agreed that a much more accurate list of the followers of duke William might be collected out of the Domesday-book.² From the roll, other records probably derived the mistake. Besides, there

¹ See page 52.

² An illustration of the differences in the copies of this roll, may not be uninteresting. Fuller, in his "Church-history of Britain," has given seven lists, taken from the works of Holinshed, Stow, Fox, and John Brompton, and an eighth, containing the names of persons who, after the battle of Hastings, were advanced to seigniorities in the land. To compare these together we select six names, chosen merely for their eminence, and on account of them all being mentioned in Domesday (except the last).—Nigel de Albiny, Henry de Ferrers, Hugh de Grantmesnil, Urao de Abitot, Robert Dispensator, and Robert de Marmyon. We shall find many diversities, omissions, and repetitions.

1	Albeny.	Ferrers.	.....	Dabitot.	Dispencere.	Marmillon.
		Ferrers.				
2	Albeny.	.....	.....	.....	Dispencer.	Marmillon.
3	.....	Henry, seigneur Le sire de de Ferieres.	Grantmesnil.	.....	.....	Roger Marmion. Le sire de Fontenay.
4	.....	Henry, seig. de Ferrers.	Le seig. de Grosmenil.	Le seig. de Ivetot.	.....	Le seig. de Fontnay. Roger Marmion.
5	.....	Henry, sire de Ferrers.	.....	.....	.....	Rogier Marmion. Le sire Fontenay.
6	.....	Ferrers.	.....	.....	Dispenser.	.....
		Ferers.				
7	.....	Ferers.	.....	.....	Spenser.	Marmyoun.
8	.....	H. Ferret.	.....	H. de Appe- tot.	H. de Spen- cer.	.....
		R. de Ferrers.				

were in Normandy so many as nine communes of the name of Marmyon; with one of whom Robert might easily have been confounded by historians.'

In conformity with the feudal system, Robert de Marmyon and his heirs had tenure of their lands by military or other services. The Castle of Tamworth

Fuller, whose chief excellence as a writer lies in his witty remarks, says that a catalogue from Domesday were to be believed on its word, before Battle-roll on its oath. He compares the latter to Jason's weather-beaten ship so often patched with new boards that it was questionable whether it were the same with the first.

Our readers will at once perceive that we have been discussing one of the questions raised by T. C. Banks, in his "History of the ancient noble Family of Marmyon," published in 1817: and perhaps they may expect us to follow him through all the points, in which he has endeavoured to invalidate sir William Dugdale's account of the early Norman lords of Tamworth-Castle.

But in reality we have at once destroyed all his objections by asserting, and we trust proving, that Robert de Marmyon was steward to William I., and therefore called Dispenker. This, indeed, he seems to consider as possibly true. One or two points may be especially referred to. The fact that Millicent, wife of the first Robert de Marmyon, was associated with her husband in some pious donations, does not indicate that he acquired the lands by her, and thus favour the conjecture that she was the daughter of Dispenker. The second Robert de Marmyon, and his wife Maud, gave to the monks of Fontenay lands which he possessed in his own right. Nor can the Marmyons have acquired the Castle of Tamworth by this Maud; because to her husband was granted free-warren in all his land in Warwickshire, as his father had before him, and by name at Tamworth. This at once shows that the first Marmyon had possession of notable lands at this town.

In thus summarily refuting the work of so eminent a writer, we must repudiate the charge of presumption on our part. We deny all intention to misrepresent any facts wilfully, to suppress any points which would militate against our opinion or in any way give a fictitious honour to our native town. We have not made use of mere conjectures, but have given our clear convictions derived from all the records which have fallen under our notice. There has long been a contest between Tamworth and Scrivelsby regarding the questions, which was the 'caput baronie' and to which was attached the Championship of England. In 1814, Banks was engaged in maintaining, before the House of Lords, the claim of his school-fellow and intimate friend, Louis Dymoke, esq., to the barony of Marmyon, by seizure of the manor of Scrivelsby. He was, therefore, interested in the degradation of Tamworth-Castle. In his 'History' he has thrown down the gauntlet, and we have dared to take it up. The public must be the umpire, and award the palm of victory.

Of course, we can only give a one-sided view of the question. We have not seen the records of Scrivelsby themselves,—the great distance of the place and other circumstances rendering such a course impracticable. We do not wish unjustly to elevate Tamworth at the expense of Scrivelsby; therefore we maintain that both were granted to Marmyon at the same time, and conjointly formed the 'caput baronie.' Such honours do we assign to Tamworth-Castle; and this seems the fairest conclusion to which we can arrive. Banks considers the 'caput baronie' and the Championship to be inseparable. This we do not dispute. We trust that, before the conclusion of our account of the Castle, we shall have proved that, if baronies by tenure were now admitted, the present owner of the Castle of Tamworth would be a baron of the realms, and ought, in strict right, to exercise the office of Royal Champion of England alternately with the Dymokes.

and the manor of Scrivelsby conjointly were held by Royal Championship,—one of the most noble and distinguished offices in the kingdom. The lord of these places, or some person in his name if he should be prevented by any just cause, was, at the time of the king's coronation, to ride completely armed and sitting on a barbed horse into the royal presence; and there, causing to be proclaimed that he would defend the right of the king and the dignity of the crown, challenge to mortal combat any person who should dare to offer opposition. This honourable office the Marmyons are said to have possessed hereditarily in Normandy, and to have performed at the crowning of the dukes.¹

Robert de Marmyon, having thus acquired the Castle of Tamworth, with its demesnes, most probably converted it into one of his principal residences.² For this purpose, he may have removed from it the society of nuns, who are said to have occupied it.³ According to the ancient legend, of which we spoke as containing the only direct proof of the grant of the Castle by the Conqueror, he was not content with the territories which he had acquired, but seized upon the possessions of other religious ladies. This is a poor authority whereon to charge him with sacrilege, but we must relate the tale as it is given.

Directly after his settlement here, Robert de Marmyon expelled the nuns of Polesworth from their convent, and, driving them from their lands, retained their property. Being compelled to leave their peaceful

¹ Camden's *Britannia*.

² Dugdale's *Baronage* has been consulted in the text, and his *Antiquities of Warwickshire*, in the notes, unless we have given references to other authorities.

³ See page 320.

shelter, the holy Benedictine sisterhood took up their abode in a small cell at Oldbury, a few miles distant, probably the only place that they still held. There they remained, hoping that the days of adversity might soon pass by, and some providential incident restore them to their former state. It accordingly so happened; for the cause which these weak Saxon females were unable to uphold against a potent Norman baron, was vindicated by extraordinary power.

Within the space of a twelve-month, continues the legend, Robert de Marmyon made a very costly entertainment at this Castle, to which he assembled numerous noble friends and guests. Amongst them, was his sworn brother-in-arms, sir Walter de Somerville, lord of Wichnor, in Staffordshire. Whilst Marmyon was reclining on his bed, St. Editha, habited as a veiled nun, and bearing a crosier in her hand, appeared to him in a vision. She upbraided him for his sacrilegious depoliation, and announced to him that, unless the abbey of Polesworth were restored to her successors, he should eventually suffer an evil death, and go to hell. And in order to make him more sensible of her admonition, she smote him on the side with the point of her pastoral staff; and then vanished. Being aroused by the blow, he cried out so loudly that his friends in the house heard him, and immediately hurried to his chamber, to learn what had occurred. They found him extremely tormented with the pain of his wound, and the bed covered with blood. He related the circumstances of the vision to them. They advised him to confess himself, and to make a solemn vow that he would restore the nuns, and make full compensation to them. After he had acted in accordance with their

advice, his pain ceased, and he recovered. In accomplishment of his vow, he rode to Oldbury, accompanied by his friends, and sir Walter de Somerville. He asked pardon of the nuns for the injury which he had done to them; and caused them to return to Polesworth. At the same time, he begged that he and his sworn brother-in-arms might be reputed their patrons, and have sepulture for themselves and their heirs at the convent,—the Marmyons in the chapter-house, and the Somerviles in the cloisters. Thus the nuns were reinstated, and enjoyed their rights during the remainder of the reign of William the Conqueror, and in the times of his successors.¹

There can be but one opinion concerning this legend. In it has clearly been embodied, long after the Conquest, a popular tradition containing as usual great error founded upon some truth. We will leave the supernatural part of the narration alone, and dwell only upon the historical statements. In these, will be found some important mistakes. Walter de Somerville was not then lord of Wichnor; for, according to the *Doomsday-book*, it was held by Robert de Stafford.² But it is certain that it soon passed to the Somerviles. And again we have good grounds for asserting that one of the main incidents could hardly have occurred in the reign of the Conqueror. The fundamental truth of the legend seems to be the deprivation and restoration of the nuns. Their reinstitution cannot be questioned.

¹ *Dugdale's Monast. Angl.* The place of sepulture of any of the Marmyon family, we have not ascertained. The remains of the nunnery at Polesworth are very scanty, and have been converted into small dwelling-houses and outbuildings. It is impossible to discover the original destination of the parts. A large gate-way and a semicircular arched passage leading towards the church, the fragments of a staircase, and the ashlar masonry at the angles of the walls, are almost all the particulars that would attract attention. Not a single tomb is now to be seen amidst the ruins.

² *Shaw's Staffordsh.*

It expressly appears from the charter of Robert de Marmyon, that, for their re-establishment at Polesworth, he gave to Osanna, the prioress, the church of St. Editha in that place, in order that the convent of Oldbury might remain there. The exact words are as follows:—"Notum sit omnibus me concessisse Osannæ, prioressæ, ad religionem instaurandum Sanctimonialium ibi, Ecclesiam S. Edithæ de Pollesworda, cum pertinentiis; ita quod Conventus de Aldeberia ibi sit manens."¹ Robert de Marmyon and Miliscent his wife also bestowed on the sisterhood the whole town of Polesworth, with all their demesnes in Waverton.² The grant was afterwards confirmed by king Stephen. Hence Leland has attributed to this baron and his lady the foundation of that religious house. But the words of the charter, which we have quoted, show that it was a previously constituted community. It is generally believed to have been instituted by Ecgberht the Great, for his daughter Editha. She was afterwards canonized, with her great instructress Modwen, who came with Lyne and Osythe from Ireland.³

But we cannot date the restoration of the monastery of Polesworth before the commencement of the reign of Henry I. Our reason is very simple. Osanna was prioress when Robert de Marmyon re-established the nuns; and, in the time of Stephen, she gave licence to Elias le Sauvage to have a chapel at Pooley,⁴ Roger de Clinton being then bishop of the diocese. This

¹ Leland's Collectanea.

² WAVERTON was given to the nuns in the time of Henry I. or thereabouts. Robert de Marmyon enfeoffed Robert de Grendon in certain lands in this village, with DORDON adjacent, to be held by service of one knight's fee. These places were long held by the heirs of Marmyon.

³ Dugdale's Warwicksh.

⁴ POOLEY, in the parish of Polesworth, was granted to the Marmyons. The second baron of the family, about Stephen's time, conferred it on Burdet, in fee-farm, at an

prelate was consecrated in 1129, and died in 1148. If we assign the year 1084,—only four years before the Conqueror's death,—as the date of the legendary occurrence, and 1140, as that of the licence, Osanna must have been abbess for a period of more than fifty-six years, and must have attained an extraordinary age. Truly if this is not beyond the bounds of possibility, it is certainly not within the limits of probability. Osanna was also prioress when Walter de Hastings¹ and Hade-wise his wife, in the reign of Henry I., gave to the nuns the site of Oldbury and all Stipershill,² in fields and woods, down to the middle of the valley on that side of Mancetter; and a certain part of the wood on the south-east of Oldbury, extending to the rivulet which runs from Hartshill; and also two grounds

annual rent of 10s. The latter soon afterwards granted it to Sauvage. Osanna, the abbess of Polesworth, with the consent of her fellow nuns, gave permission to Elias, son of Geoffrey le Sauvage, to have a chapel here, but without service,—for prayers without mass we suppose,—and a chapel-yard. In return he gave to the convent, the inheritance of four acres of the best meadow-ground in this village; promised to pay annually during his life 12d. upon St. Editha's altar, on the day of her festival; and bequeath his body to be buried in the church of Polesworth. This agreement was made in the presence of Roger de Clinton, the bishop.

But the tenure in fee-farm did not endure for a long time. Robert de Marmyon, probably the son of him who made the grant to Burdet, in consideration of ten marks and the yearly payment of a sore sparrow-hawk to himself and his heirs, released the rent of 10s. unto Geoffry, brother and heir of Elias le Sauvage. Subsequently William Burdet acquitted to Philip, the last of the Marmyons of Tamworth-Castle, all his right to the homage and services of William le Sauvage, grandson of the second Geoffry, for the lands of Pooley. Henceforward they were held immediately of the Marmyons, by service of a sore sparrow-hawk, or in lieu 2s. to be paid on the feast of St. James the Apostle, in the nature of soccage-tenure.

1 At the time of the general survey, FILLONGLEY was held by the bishop of Coutance, the church of Coventry, Alai a Saxon, and Robert Dispensator. Each possessed half a hide; and in the portion of the latter was the church, with wood two miles long and one broad: valued altogether at 20s.

Of the portion possessed by the Marmyons, Walter de Hastings, was enfeoffed, in the time of Henry I.; and, at the end of that king's reign, it was held by his son Hugh. His descendants continued possessed of it, by service paid to the lords of Tamworth-Castle: and there they most probably resided, until Henry de Hastings acquired, by marriage, the castle of Abergavenny, in Wales. See pp. 67 and 88.

2 STIPERSHILL, near Polesworth, is said to have belonged to the Marmyons. Camden erroneously states that they had their castle here: there was once a little fortification. It continued for many ages in the possession of the lords of Tamworth-Castle; who, from the reign of Edward III. at least, kept their courts there.

called Calf-croft and Birchley. This might seem another evidence of the worthlessness of the legend in describing Oldbury as belonging to the nuns in the Conqueror's reign. But it appears from the declaration of Roger de Clinton the bishop, who witnessed the deed, that the grant was made, in order that Walter and Hadewise might not retain any of the property belonging rightly to the convent of Polesworth. This shows that the nuns had previously possessed it. The great error in the legend is the placing of the dispossession and restoration of the nuns so close together in point of time. If we date the latter circumstance about the middle of the reign of Henry I., no difficulty can be found in reconciling the other facts there given. In some of the laws of this king, the preambles acknowledge the manifold oppressions which religious bodies had suffered: and afterwards restitutions were very generally made.

Nothing more than what we have related is known of the first Norman lord of the Castle, except that, with Miliscent, he granted to the monks of Bardney, in Lincolnshire, the adjacent town of Budegate, for the health of the souls of his father and mother, his own soul, that of his wife, and for the souls of their heirs. He died in the time of Henry I.; and was succeeded by his son, also named Robert.¹

¹ The first Robert was not improbably the father of Roger de Marmyon, whom Dugdale names as being possessed of Arrow.

From Roger, Arrow descended to Robert his grandchild, who afterwards passed it away to Geoffrey his uncle. The daughter of the latter,—Albreda,—conveyed it to William de Camvile; who afterwards became her husband. He was a younger son of Richard de Camvile, a "devout and pious man," who founded Combe-abbey for Cistercian monks.

Lady Albreda purchased a mill at Stretton-super-Dunsmore of these monks, for twenty marks. She afterwards assigned it to them again, on condition that they should solemnize the anniversaries of her husband, of herself, of William her son, and of the rest of her sons and daughters. To William her son, she gave a fourth

Henry I., like his predecessors, was ardently fond of the chase. He increased the number of royal forests, and framed laws of the severest nature to prevent encroachments, and preserve the animals within them. Amongst these regulations, there was one by which the barons were forbidden to hunt, even upon their own lands, without royal permission. Most of the nobles were, therefore, compelled to obtain licence that they might indulge in a sport, which formed one of their most favourite amusements. Robert de Marmyon received from the king a charter, dated at Cannock, in Staffordshire, by which free-warren was conceded to him in all his lands in the county of Warwick, in woodland and plain, as his father had before him, and by name here at Tamworth.

This nobleman attained considerable note in the struggles between the empress Maud and Stephen for the crown of England. He was in Normandy when Geoffrey, count of Anjou, Maud's husband, attempted to gain that dukedom from the English king: and he fought in the cause of the latter. The command of Falaise was committed to him; and he bravely held it out against all the vigorous attempts of Geoffrey to take it by storm. But in retaliation, the count besieged, and at length gained, his strong castle of Fontenay, and razed it completely to the ground. This occurred in the year 1139.

part of a knight's fee in Seckington, of the fee of Robert Bossu, earl of Leicester, which she had acquired of her father; another fourth part, of the fee of the earl of Warwick; and half a knight's fee there and in Weston, which Simon de Barcheston held. For these, her son gave her forty marks and discharged her of twenty, due to the monks of Combe, for the performance of her husband's anniversary. Albreda certainly held Dosthill; she granted the service of James de la Launde for this place to William her son.

William de Ludington held part of a knight's fee in Wilnecote of lady Albreda de Marmyon, who held it of the earls of Mollent.

After this occurrence, Robert de Marmyon granted away his lands in Fontenay. With Maud de Beauchamp his wife, he gave permission to his tenants by military service there, to bestow the lands upon the monks of that place. This was not his only donation, in the course of his life, to ecclesiastical foundations. He gave a hide of land in Widefleet, with the mill there, to the monks of Bermondsey, in Southwark: and he bestowed the church of Quinton, in Gloucestershire, on the nuns of Polesworth. After Stephen had been taken prisoner, in February, 1140-1, Maud became queen for a short time. Whilst at Oxford to celebrate the approaching festival of Easter, she began to manifest her haughty and vindictive spirit. In spite of the remonstrances of her most attached friends, she unsparingly confiscated the property of those who had been the partizans of Stephen, and bestowed them upon her own adherents. Amongst other nobles, Robert de Marmyon shared in her indignation. She seized his barony and possessions at this town; and granted the Castle and honour of Tamworth to William de Beauchamp, to hold as freely as they had ever been enjoyed by Robert Dispencer, the brother of Urso d' Abitot. Emeline, the daughter of Urso, was the mother of William de Beauchamp. On this account, it would seem, he obtained the possessions of the son of his grand-uncle,—the first Robert de Marmyon.

Whether William de Beauchamp actually enjoyed the Castle of Tamworth, we do not know. At all events, he can only have held it so long as Maud retained power, whilst Stephen was a prisoner. Robert de Marmyon did not live long after the liberation of the king, which took place in September, 1141. William

de Newbury speaks of him in no very gentle terms. He describes him as a quarrelsome person, equalled by few of his time in ferocity and knavery. Between this noble and Ralph, earl of Chester,¹ a feudal war arose, in the prosecution of which he lost his life.

Intent upon the destruction of this earl's house and family, the fierce baron of Tamworth, in 1148, marched with all his forces to Coventry, where his opponent's Castle was situated. He seized upon the priory there, and, driving out the monks, converted it into a fortress; from whence he might attack the castle. For greater security, he caused numerous deep ditches to be secretly dug in the adjacent fields. These were lightly covered over with soil, so that if any one of the enemy should approach he might be ensnared. As the earl's troops rapidly drew near, Robert de Marmyon rode out to reconnoitre them. But it so happened that, whilst charging at the head of his own soldiers, he forgot where the traps had been formed, and his own horse fell into one of them. He was thrown down with great violence, and his thigh broken. A common soldier immediately rushed upon him, and cut off his head, before any of his friends could hasten to his succour, and rescue him.

Robert de Marmyon had a son, also named Robert; who succeeded, and became the third baron of the family. He must have been very young at his father's decease, as he survived him about seventy-five years.

This Robert de Marmyon, having obtained his father's estates, had granted to him, by royal charter dated at

¹ Ralph, earl of Chester, granted to Robert de Marmyon and his heirs, about Stephen's time, the service of Osbert de Arden rendered for the manor of KINGSBURY. But, notwithstanding, this place was afterwards held of the earl of Chester's heirs, as of the manor of Chillesmore in Coventry.

Bruges, free-warren in all his land in Warwickshire, and by name at Tamworth, in woodland and plain, as his ancestors had in the time of Henry I. And no one was to hunt in it, or to capture a hare, without his licence, under penalty of 10*l*.¹ Upon the assessment of the aid, in 1166, to provide for the marriage of Matilda, the king's eldest daughter, with Henry the Lion, duke of Saxony, Bavaria, Angaria, and Westphalia, it was certified, according to the red book of the Exchequer, that he held eleven knights' fees, whereof his ancestors had been enfeoffed in the time of Henry I.; and three, which he himself had acquired. Banks, however, says that the black book gives a different account, and sets forth that the knights' fees were eleven, a fourth part, and a fifth part, *de veteri feoffamento*; and five, and a fourth part, *de novo feoffamento*: of which latter, Geoffrey de Marmyon held one. For these, within two years, when the marriage took place, he paid 7*l*. 12*s*. 8*d*.²

¹ Rot. pat., 27 H. VI., per inspex.

² We will here speak of the possessions of the Marmyons at OVER WHITACRE and FREASLEY, in Warwickshire.

In Doomsday, there is no distinction between Over and Nether Whitacre. They were held by Turchil de Warwick, Hugh de Grentemaisnil, and Robert de Veci.

The greatest part of these very soon came into the possession of the Marmyons. Of Over Whitacre the father of Simon de Whitacre was enfeoffed, in the time of Henry I., to hold by service of half a knight's fee. He also obtained the remainder from the family of Arden, immediately descended from Turchil de Warwick. This Simon de Whitacre, by marriage with the sister and heiress of Robert de Kall, acquired Freasley. This place was originally a member of Polesworth, and belonged to the Marmyons, who gave it to Kall or his progenitor; as, in the reign of Henry II., Robert, the third baron, designated him his knight, because he owed him military service for it: and he confirmed the grant of Freasley-mill, which Kall had made to the nuns of Polesworth.

Simon de Whitacre died in 1187, leaving Alan and Jordan his sons. To Alan, succeeded his son Simon; who, removing his residence to Barcheston, assumed that as his surname. In 1233, he passed Over Whitacre to Simon, son of Jordan and Isolda his wife, to be held of him by service of half a knight's fee. In 1238, it was agreed between the parties that Simon de Whitacre should perform the required military service, by taking the office of warder at the Castle of Tamworth. But Simon de Barcheston and his heirs were to have ward, marriage, and relief, from Simon de Whitacre and his heirs, whenever required. And the latter were to perform suit at this Castle, for the former. Over-Whitacre and Freasley, descended from Simon to

In the time of Henry II., which was comparatively free from war, Robert de Marmyon was only distinguished by the local dignities which he acquired. In 1185, he was made sheriff of Worcestershire. At this time, he is mentioned as "d'nus de Marmion, baro de Tamworth:" whence it is evident that he was a baron by the tenure of Tamworth-Castle, whatever he might be in right of Scrivelsby. He continued in that office until nearly the close of 1188. In the year preceeding this latter date, he was a justice-itinerant in Warwickshire and some other counties. And, in 1189, he was again constituted sheriff of Worcestershire.

We do not know whether Robert de Marmyon attended Richard I., during his splendid exploits in Palestine. At least, we have not hitherto found him mentioned as participating in the holy war. But, in 1194, after the liberation of the king from the hands of Henry VI., emperor of Germany, he accompanied Richard into Normandy; who was determined to retaliate upon Philip, the French king, the injuries received from him by his favouring John, in fomenting discord amongst the English subjects, during their monarch's absence. The war continued for a long time. In 1197, Robert de Marmyon was one of those eminent persons who subscribed the confederation made between Richard

Jordan his son "a man potent in the Countrie"; and to Richard, his son. The latter, in 1201, held them at the death of Philip de Marmyon, by service of a knight's fee. (Inquis. 20 E. 1.) But, on the death of Joan Mortein, eldest daughter of Philip, he is said to have held a knight's fee, and a fourth part, in these places, (Inquis. 23 E. 1.) The great grand-daughter of this Richard carried Whitacre and Freaaley to Alan de Walslive; whose two daughters and coheirresses conveyed them, temp. Hen. VII., to the families of Hore and Walsh. In 1375, sir Baldwin de Freville died seized of two parts of a knight's fee in Freaaley, which Richard de Whitacre, grand-son of the last named Richard, held. Also half a knight's fee in Whitacre, that Jordan de Whitacre once had (Inquis. 49 E. III.) And, in 1387, another sir Baldwin de Freville, at his death, was seized of the third part of a knight's fee in Freaaley, and half a knight's fee in Whitacre, which the heirs of Richard de Whitacre held. (Inquis. II R. II.)

1 Erdeswicke:—edit. 1844.

I. and Baldwin, count of Flanders, against the French sovereign,¹ Richard died abroad in 1199.

Again we find nothing particular named of the third Robert de Marmyon, for some years. But, in 1213, the then aged warrior accompanied John in the expedition made into Poiteau, to regain the English territories which had been seized by the French, on account of the murder of Arthur, duke of Brittany, the claimant to the British throne. But, for some reason, Robert de Marmyon, after a short time, took offence, and joined the French king. John was highly incensed at this step. Out of revenge, in 1215, he commanded his chamberlain, Thomas de Erdington, to hasten with some forces to the Castle of Tamworth, and, taking out of it all the prisoners, horses, arms, and ammunition, to pull it down to the ground.² Whether this order was attempted to be executed, does not appear: at least the edifice was not destroyed. John did not live many months afterwards.

Robert de Marmyon was a benefactor to the church. He gave to the knights-templars at Balsall, the mill of Barston, in Warwickshire.³ And, in 1175, he confirmed to the nuns of Polesworth the church of Quinton, which his father had bestowed upon them. He died about 1217, leaving Robert his eldest son and heir. By another wife, Philippa, he had two other sons, one also named Robert, the other William. His

¹ Rymer's *Fœdera*. ² Dugdale's *Warwicksh.*

³ At the general survey, Balsall was held by Robert de Olgi, by a person named Robert, and by Robert Dispensator. The portion of the latter was the most extensive, being estimated at ten hides, including a mill which paid 4s.: altogether valued at 100s.

The early history of this place is imperfectly known. It was partly given to the knights-templars and partly to the knights-hospitallers. In 1185, the templars had lands here, amounting to the yearly value of 4s. 8d., said to be of the fee of Robert de Marmyon. The donor's name is not expressed.

widow survived him for some years; for, in 1220, Henry de Armentiers and William de Curli were joined in commission, with other persons of quality in Warwickshire, to be justices for taking an assize of novel disseisin, which she had brought against Robert de Marmyon the younger, concerning the dowery of such lands, as her husband was seized of at his death, in Tamworth and Middleton.¹

Robert de Marmyon, the elder son, took part with Philip Augustus against king John, and was in France when the latter died. On the death of his father, Robert de Marmyon the younger gave 500*l.* to the king to have the custody of the Castle of Tamworth, and the lands which his father had held at the time of his death, until arrangements should be made that the English might peaceably enjoy their estates in Normandy, and the Normans, theirs in England. But if, before this should take place, Robert the elder should make his peace with the king and receive the possessions of his father, he should pay to his brother, Robert the

¹ Dugdale's Warwickshire.

In the Conqueror's time, MIDDLETON belonged to Hugh de Grentemaianll and Adeliz his wife; but it soon came to the Marmyons. Perhaps Millescent wife of the first Robert, was their daughter. In 1185, the templars held lands there, which had been bestowed upon them by Geoffrey de Marmyon.

In the family it continued. In 1285, Philip claimed by prescription a court-leet and gallows there. These were allowed. But to his demand for free-warren, the jury answered that the earls of Warwick had free chase, taking forfeitures for all offences done therein, and that he had no warren, except by grant from Ela, countess of Warwick, during the term of her life. Thereupon he was amerced for his undue challenge.

On the death of Philip de Marmyon, it was divided amongst his three coheireses; who conveyed it to the Freviles, Botelers, and Hillaries. At this time, it was certainly held of the church of Tamworth, by service of 6*s.* 8*d.* annually. How it was acquired, we cannot say: this fact was unknown to Dugdale. In 1563, the Freviles acquired Hillary's part, by purchase. In 1590, sir Baldwin de Frevile procured a licence from Richard Scroope, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, to have an oratory or private chapel in his manor-house there.

Boteler's part also came to the Freviles; for Margaret, the youngest sister of the last sir Baldwin, carried it entire to her husband; and by her it passed into the family of Willoughby.

younger, so much of the 500*l.* as the profits and issues of the lands might fall short of that sum. Robert the younger was then to enjoy the lordships of Winteringham and Coningsby, in Lincolnshire; Quinton, in Gloucestershire; and Berwick, in Sussex: and William, his junior brother, was to have Torrington, in Lincolnshire, and lands to the annual value of 10*l.* in Berwick. Of all these, they had special grants from their father.

And it was farther concluded, that Robert the younger should give to the king good security that he would keep this Castle for the royal use, and deliver it up whenever it should be required. He accordingly found securities for the performance of these conditions, —Nicholas de Verdon, Geoffrey de Camvile, William de Hardreshull, Ralph Fitz Ralph, Thomas de Offerton, John de Culi, Richard Russell, Robert de la Lande, Robert de Passi, William de Fou, and Matthew Charnels, all of whom were men of note in the adjacent country. These arrangements being completed, Robert the younger had a special royal precept to William de Harcourt, then governor for the king, to deliver up the Castle to him.

Robert de Marmyon the elder did not immediately quit the king of France. But it does not appear that he aided Louis, in his attempts to gain the throne of England, to which he had been invited by the turbulent barons, when they were driven to seek a new sovereign, by the unprincipled conduct of John. After the defeat of the French and the conclusion of a treaty between England and France, Robert de Marmyon made his peace with Henry III.; and, in 1220, he received the Castle of Tamworth, with the rest of his father's lands; as appears by the king's signification of his pleasure to

all who held lands of it, by military service or otherwise, and to the sheriff of Warwickshire. Robert the younger, therefore, surrendered the possessions. His posterity long flourished in the county of Lincoln.¹

It is very probable that, after the expiration of several years, Robert de Marmyon returned into Normandy. For, in 1233, he assigned all his estates in England, for the space of seven years, to the care of Peter de Rupibus, bishop of Winchester; with the guardianship of Philip his son and heir, whose disposition in marriage this prelate was to effect as he should think proper, without disparagement. The bishop, afterwards, with the consent of Robert and Philip, made an assignment of the wardship to William de Cantilupe, a great man of that time. Of Robert the elder, we find nothing more recorded, except that he died in 1241.

Philip de Marmyon succeeded to all his father's estates. In 1243, he married Joan, one of the daughters and coheiresses of Hugh de Killpeck, of Killpeck-castle, in Herefordshire; whose guardianship and disposal in marriage had been committed to William de Cantilupe. For her lands, Philip paid relief in the following year, and, doing homage to the king, had livery² of them. In 1247, he paid a fine of six marks of silver to

¹ Robert de Marmyon, junior, became lord of Winteringham, in Lincolnshire. He married a daughter of Jernegan Fitz Hugh, and had issue William; whose son and heir John was summoned to Parliament as a baron from the 8th of June, 1294, to the 14th of March, 1321-2; in which year he died. His son, John, was summoned from the 3rd of December, 1326, to the 1st of April, 1335. He had issue, Robert, who died S. P., leaving his two sisters his heirs,—Joan married to sir John Bernack, and Avice, the second wife of John lord Grey, of Rotherford,—between whom the barony fell into abeyance. John, eldest son of Avice, assumed the name of Marmyon; but he died S. P. in 1388, leaving his niece his heir.

William, brother of Robert the younger, had a son William; who was summoned to Parliament on the 24th of December, 1364, but never afterwards; and he appears to have had no issue. *Nicholas's Peerage.*

² From the Norman *livrer*: hence the word *Delivery*.

Thomas de Clinton, that he and his heirs, his wife and their heirs, might enjoy the liberty of fishing with a boat anywhere in the water at Amington, with one net called a Fleunet, and a Tramil and Sayna, when they came to Tamworth or Middleton.¹ And he obtained a confirmation of the charter of free-warren, dated at Winchester, on the 24th of January, 1248-9, which his ancestors had previously enjoyed in Warwickshire.²

In the tempestuous reign of Henry III., Philip de Marmyon became a person of no mean celebrity in England. He was constituted sheriff of the counties of Warwick and Leicester in 1249: and he retained the office for three years. He was, at the same time, made governor of the castle of Sauvey, in the latter shire. But, in 1252, he was questioned for sitting with Richard de Mundevile, and the rest of the justices for the gaol-delivery at Warwick, as he had no commission to assume that office.

This nobleman attended the king into Gascoigne, in 1253, to aid in the suppression of a general revolt in this province, which yet belonged to England. The inhabitants had even called in the king of Castile to take possession of their country. Henry arrived at Bourdeaux, on the 15th of August. His powerful army soon subdued the rebels; and a reconciliation was made between the two kings, and confirmed by the conclusion of a marriage between prince Edward and Eleanor, princess of Castile. Henry returned to England at the close of the year, after having been magnificently entertained for eight days at Paris, by Louis. But many

¹ Thomas's Dugdale.

² Rot. pat. 27 H. VI. In 1248, he brought an assize against Ela, countess of Warwick, for common of pasture within the lordship of Sutton-Coldfield.

of the English nobility, on their way back, in the following year, although they had letters of protection from the king of France, were taken prisoners by the French in Poiteau. Amongst these, were John de Plesssets, earl of Warwick, Gilbert de Segrave, and Philip de Marmyon.

The detention of the lord of Tamworth-Castle was not of a very long duration. For, in 1257, he joined the expedition made into Wales, to put down the rebellious natives. In the next year, he had summons, with other great men, to resort to Chester, on the eve of the nativity of St. John the Baptist; well furnished with horse and arms, to march against Llewellyn ap Griffith. And, in 1260, he was commanded, with all the chief nobility, to be at London on the day after the feast of Sts. Simon and Jude, for a similar purpose.

At this time, the barons began more openly to intrude upon the royal prerogatives, by assuming powers, which Henry knew not how to wield with judgment. They placed sheriffs of their own election in numerous counties of the realm. Philip de Marmyon, as a baron in whose fidelity the king reposed great confidence, had then, by special patent, the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk committed to his care; with the custody of the castles of Norfolk and Orford. In 1262-3, he received commands to attend at Hereford, on the Monday after Candlemas day, to resist Llewellyn ap Griffith; as also to be at Worcester, on the ensuing Lammas-day—1263, well accoutred, for the same purpose.

But, at this time, numerous of the most powerful barons rose in rebellion to compel the king to give his assent to the ordinances which they had drawn up at Oxford, tending so greatly to undermine the

royal authority. They seized numerous of the castles, and ravaged without mercy the lands of those who refrained from joining them. Louis, IX., who was constituted arbitrator, summoned the parties to Amiens, on the 23rd of January, that he might hear them plead their respective causes. And he made both find sureties on oath for their adherence to the determination which he should make. Philip de Marmyon, being a person of unshaken loyalty, was chosen on the part of the king.

Louis, on the 3rd of February, pronounced his sentence. He ordained that the provisions of Oxford, as opposed to the regal prerogatives and to the ancient constitution, should be annulled; the castles and lands restored to the king; and also the nomination of the great officers of state, and of the royal household. A general amnesty was to be granted to all subjects for past offences, and they should fully enjoy all the liberties and privileges given to them by former charters, the infraction of which had been the great incitement to the insurrection. This award was not agreeable either to the king or to the barons, but especially to the latter; who immediately rejected it.

Hostilities were very soon commenced. Henry summoned all the tenants of the crown to meet him at Oxford. At first, fortune favoured his arms. He laid siege to Northampton; and it was taken by assault on the 5th of April, 1264; when Simon de Montfort, the son of the leader of the barons, with the whole garrison, was captured. Philip de Marmyon is named as being present upon this occasion, with all the power which he could raise. Leicester and Nottingham submitted to prince Edward without any struggle.

Henry then marched into the south of England to relieve Rochester, where the earl of Warenne was besieged by the earl of Leicester. On the approach of the royalists, Leicester retired to London. There he was joined by fifteen thousand of the citizens: and, with his forces thus augmented, he marched to encounter his opponents. The two armies met near Lewes, in Sussex, where a fierce battle ensued. Philip de Marmyon fought there for the king. The issue was fatal, for Henry was captured, and Edward was soon compelled to surrender himself into the hands of the baronial party.

The battle of Evesham restored Henry III. to his throne. Philip de Marmyon appears to have joined in it: and he was afterwards present during the famous siege of Kenilworth-castle, which Henry de Hastings so stubbornly maintained, for four months. Immediately upon the surrender of this fortress, Philip was made governor of it, for the king.¹ He obtained by confiscation the lands of Thomas de Endesore, a rebel; and also all the king's demesnes in Tamworth, especially those of Henry de Hastings, as we have noticed in other parts of our History. The lands of Endesore were restored in consequence of the Dictum de Kenilworth; those of Hastings, at a subsequent period; and the Warwickshire part Philip retained until his death.

The remainder of the life of Philip de Marmyon was unmarked by any particular military exploits. In 1285, he claimed by prescription and was allowed a court-leet and gallows at Tamworth, with all waifs found in a certain place called Ashland, within this manor, and

¹ Directly after the siege, Philip de Marmyon carried away from the castle, arms, lead, iron, and other things, to the value of 10*l*. The legality of this proceeding seems to have been questioned.

also free-warren in his demesne-lands here, and in those belonging to the nuns of Polesworth, as he and his ancestors had always had. He also then said that he had gallows belonging to his manors of Bas-Whitacre,¹ and Lea,² and at Middleton. And he, moreover, said

1 NETHER WHITACRE was possessed by the Marmyons. With the PERRYCROFTS, close by Tamworth, it was granted, about the time of Stephen, or the beginning of the reign of Henry II., by Robert de Marmyon, to William Fitz Ralph, to hold by service of a knight's fee. His son Ralph Fitz Ralph, in 1296, was certified to hold this manor of the lord of Tamworth-Castle, by that service: he also had the manor of GLASCOTE. His son, Nicholas Fitz Ralph, a knight, had issue Giles; whose daughter and heiress Isabell, married Robert, a younger (illegitimate) son of Philip de Marmyon.

Thus Robert de Marmyon possessed HALLATON. Nether-Whitacre with that place, Perrycrofts, and Glascote, he passed away to Ralph, lord Bassot of Drayton, for an annuity of 40*l.*, to be paid during his natural life. Robert gave a yard-land in Whitacre to the nuns of Polesworth. He had a daughter named Amice, married 1st to Eustace de Hardreshull, afterwards to John de Whitacre. Eustace and Amice, in 1339, passed away all their right and interest in these possessions to lord Bassot. On the death of her second husband, Amice released to lord Bassot only the moiety of Nether-Whitacre. The other moiety passed to the family of the Whitacres. Lord Bassot gave 20*l.* of land and rent in this Whitacre, for the endowment of a chantry consisting of three priests; founded by him in the church of Drayton-Bassot. For this purpose, in 1339, he obtained the king's licence, and that of Baldwin de Freville, superior lord of the fee. Two years after, he passed away the residue to William de Clinton, earl of Huntingdon. The latter, soon after, exchanged it with Richard and Amahd de Whitacre for their moiety of the manor of Perrycrofts. Isabel, daughter of Amice and John de Whitacre, was married to sir Thomas de Birmingham, knt. Of his two daughters, Eleana, married Edmund Ferrers of Chartley, and Elizabeth, George Longville. Glascote passed in the same manner as Whitacre.

DRAKENEDGE was a member of Nether-Whitacre, and given by the Marmyons to Nicholas Fitz Ralph or his ancestor. Of his heirs, the family of Mancetter held it, by service of a pair of gilt spurs.

In 1291, it is said that Robert de Marmyon held of Philip, a knight's fee in Whitacre and Drakenedge, which Robert de Mancetter had. In 1304, he held the same: and Joan Mortein held the fee of the lord king. In 1344, William de Clinton had the moiety of the manor of Nether-Whitacre, except twenty pounds return, of Baldwin Freville, by military service. In 1354, William de Clinton, earl of Huntingdon, held, at his death, the moiety of a messuage, a carucate of land, six acres of plantation, four acres of meadow, and 10*l.* return in this place, of sir Baldwin Freville, by military service. In 1387, sir Baldwin Freville held, at his death, a knight's fee in Whitacre and Drakenedge, which the heirs of Thomas de Birmingham had. And finally, in 1435, Edmund Ferrers, of the inheritance of Eleana his wife, had the moiety of the manor of Whitacre, "by unknown service." (Inquisitions.)

2 LEA-JUXTA-MARSTON, was involved with Whitacre, and belonged to the Marmyons. It was granted, with STRETTFORD, on the Watling-street, near Fazeley, now depopulated, to Thomas Fitz Thurstan, called also Thomas de Tamworth, as he lived here, and was probably a retainer of the Marmyons. This Thomas by marriage with the daughter of Ketelburn [Kettlebrook] de Langdon, acquired the manor of Langdon. His descendants assumed the name "de la Launde." Lea, Stretford, and Langdon, passed to Thurstan, his son; Ralph, his son; and James, his son, who passed away Langdon. Lea and Stretford went on to John, the son of James; and to James de la Launde, his son. James was the last of his family. In 1367, he quitted all the

that he held the Castle of Tamworth; with mills, and meadows, and lands called Ashland, and the advowson of the Church, as belonging to his barony, of his own right and inheritance.

In his works of piety, he was not far behind the custom of his times. He gave an annual rent of 20*s.*, issuing out of certain houses in London, to the hospital of St. Thomas of Acres in that city. He also founded the hospital of St. James, close to Tamworth. In accordance with the directions of the king's writ, an inquisition was taken, in 1285, to ascertain the amount of damage which the crown would sustain, if licence should be given to Philip de Marmyon to assign to the master of the hospital, for the maintenance of five priests who should celebrate divine service there, five messuages, one mill, three carucates and thirty-eight acres of land, twenty-two acres of meadow, twenty-three acres and three roods of plantation, and the return of one pound of pepper, and one of cummin, with appurtenances, in Coningsby, Haltham, Wood-Enderby, Wilksham, Dalderby, Scrivelsby, and Lincoln, and the advowson of the church of Wilksby. And it was said, on the oaths of Peter de Dalderby; John de Weingworth, in Scrivelsby; Hugh Fraunkelayn, of Langton; Robert Fitz Nigel, of Hemingby; Richard le Chapelayn, of the same place; William Cade, of Stretton; Wilfrid de Stretton; William de

interest which he had in Lea to his mother Allanore; and she, in 1370, by deed, dated at Tamworth, passed away the same to sir Baldwin Frevile, *knt.*, and his heirs. Stretford had come to the Freviles about 1345. Both these places belonged to the lords of the Castle for many ages; until the beginning of the reign of Charles I., when Lea was sold by sir John Ferrers, *knt.*, to Charles Adderly, *esq.*

MARSTON, in the Conqueror's time, belonged, as did Lea, to Robert Dispensator, and contained then nine hides. Turchil de Warwick had three hides there. It was soon all in the possession of the Marmyons, and received the distinctive appellation of Marston-Marmyon. In 1234, Robert de Marmyon answered half a knight's fee for it. The Marmyons were the superior lords of the fee, and the family of Limes of Maxtoke held it.

Wurthon, in Haltham; Robert le Tanur, of the same place; Robert de Thorneton; Robert Colyer, of Coningsby; and Thomas de Pyndur, of the same place; that all these possessions, being appurtenances of the manor of Scrivelsby long before, that is, in the time of king John, were held of the king, in capite, by Philip de Marmyon, who had reacquired them, after his ancestors had alienated them, at different periods. With the advowson of the church, they were, in all issues, of the annual value of 8*l.* 19*s.* 1½*d.*: which would be just the amount of damage incurred by the king, if the manor of Scrivelsby were in his own hands.¹

Two years afterwards, Philip de Marmyon granted this hospital, with its appurtenances, and pasture in Ashfield for four oxen and two horses, to William de Combery Hall, for a time, there to celebrate services for his soul, until he should place in it either religious men of the Premonstratentian order, or secular priests, who should bear upon them *signum clypei*.² This hospital remained to the time of Henry VIII.; and, in 1534, when Robert Perrott was chaplain, was endowed with lands valued at 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* annually.³ The remains of the 'spital-chapel,' now converted into a small dwelling-house and barn, still stand at a very little distance from the northern boundary of the old borough of Tamworth.

Philip de Marmyon was the last of the elder branch of the family; and died in 1291. By his first wife Joan, he had three daughters, Joan, Mazera, and Maud or Matilda. Joan was married to William Mortein; Mazera died in her father's life time, but left by her husband, Ralph de Cromwell, a daughter Joan. Matilda was

1 Inquis., 13 E. 1. :—Banks's Hist. 2 Tanner's Not. Monast.

3 Valor Ecclesiast.

married to Ralph le Boteler. By his second wife Mary, who survived him until 1314, he had another daughter Joan. By the inquisition taken after his death, on the 13th of March, 1291-2, it is certified that he held the Castle of Tamworth, with all its members and appurtenances, of the king, in capite, by military service, finding three knights, at his own costs, in the Welsh war, for forty days. And he held the manor of Scrivelsby of the king, by barony; and the manor of Langton, in Lincolnshire. And he had also the manors of Ferne, Lastrin, and Bradford, in the county of Hereford, of the inheritance of Joan his wife.¹ His next heirs were, Joan, wife of William de Mortein; Joan, daughter of Mazera and Ralph Cromwell; Matilda, wife of Ralph Boteler; and Joan his daughter, then only eight years old.

Upon the partition of the lands amongst these coheir-esses, the Castle of Tamworth was assigned to Joan, the eldest daughter; and, in her right, William de Mortein possessed it. Scrivelsby was given to Joan the youngest child; she carried it eventually to Thomas de Lodelow; and their grand-daughter, to sir John Dymoke; whose direct descendant still enjoys it.

Joan Mortein died in 1294. As she had no issue, the Castle of Tamworth, by agreement made amongst

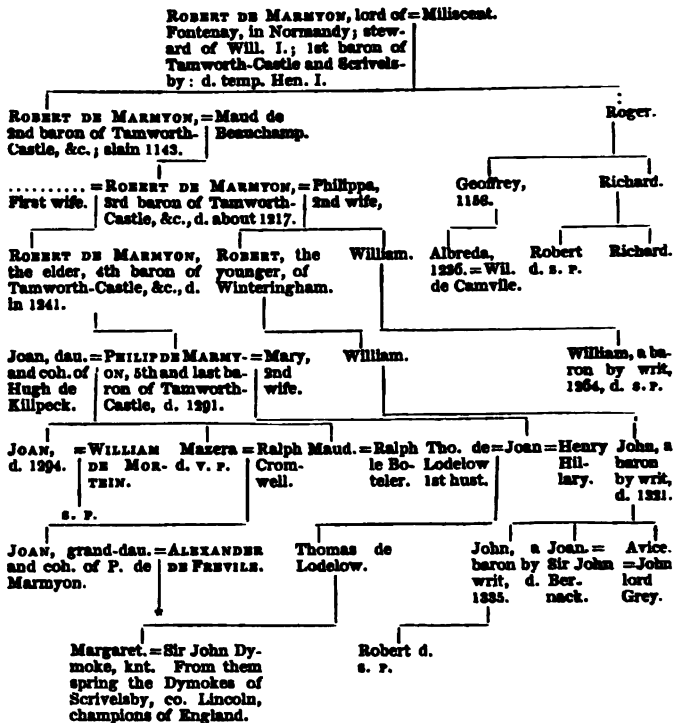
¹ In the Appendix, Note 26, we give a more detailed account of the possessions of the lords of the Castle from 30 E. I to 37 H. VI, taken from the "*Calendarium inquisitionum post mortem sive escaetorum*," published by royal command.

² Philip de Marmyon, it seems, had some illegitimate sons, born of the same mother apparently, and, we should conjecture, between his first and second marriages. Of these, the most noted was Robert, a younger son, whom we have had occasion elsewhere to mention. He was a knight, and bore for his arms,—three swords in pale, pointing downwards, with a chief vairy.

To this family, we may, perhaps, refer many individuals of the name of Marmyon, of whom very little is known. Peter de Marmyon "*de burgeny secoten*," is named in the court-rolls of Tamworth, in 1302. Galfrid was presented to the church of Great Packington, in 1312. Brother Robert de Marmyon was elected keeper or governor of the hospital of St. Thomas in Birmingham, in 1336.

the rest of the coheireesses, was allotted to Alexander de Frevile, who had married Joan, daughter of Ralph Cromwell.

ARMS OF MARMYON:—VAIRY ARG. AND AZ., A FESS GU.



The family of Frevile, originally of Cambridgeshire, was of great eminence, both before and after this time, although only one of them, Dugdale says, ever received summons as a baron of the realms. This was Alexander,¹ who thus acquired the Castle: being heir of his brother, sir Baldwin Frevile, knt., he inherited, in 1289, many possessions in the counties of Norfolk and Hereford.

¹ In i Edw. III.,—1327.

Alexander de Frevile was principally employed in the Scottish wars. In 1301, he was engaged in the expedition into Scotland; and in 1303, 1304, and 1305, he served in that kingdom. And, in 1314,—the year in which the battle of Bannockburn was fought,—he received commands to repair to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, by the feast of the Assumption of the blessed Virgin Mary; well fitted with horse and arms, in order to march against the rebellious Scots. We find little more concerning his military exploits, except that he was included in a summons, dated at Ramsay, on the 5th of April, 1327, to repair to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, with horse and arms, in order to serve against Robert Bruce.

Upon the division of the lands of Isabell wife of William Waldraun, in 1309, Alexander de Frevile, obtained in right of Joan his wife, one of her cousins and heirs, the manors of Winterbourne and Ashton, with other lands at Yatesbury, in Wiltshire. By his lady, he had a son and heir named Baldwin, to whom he, in 1323, assigned the Castle of Tamworth, reserving it, however, to himself and his wife, during their natural lives, to be held by them directly of the king. For this purpose, Edward II. issued a writ to ascertain what damage the crown would sustain if the royal permission were granted. An inquisition was accordingly taken at Warwick, in the presence of the escheator of the king, on the Monday before the feast of the Nativity of our Lord: upon the oaths of William de Blithe, Anketell de Bracebigg, John de Longedon, John le Botiller, Henry le Bray, John de Sekindon, William de Blacgreve, Henry Skil, Robert de Aula, Henry Cuckeu, Ralph le Beauchaump, and Richard Vilars. They stated upon oath that it was not to the damage or prejudice of the

lord king, if he should concede to Alexander and Joan that they might enfeoff Baldwin of their Castle of Tamworth, with its appurtenances, which was held of the king in capite, to be held by Baldwin and his heirs of the king and his successors, by the due and accustomed services: so that Baldwin, having full and peaceable seisin of the Castle and its appurtenances, might give it to Alexander and Joan, to be held by them their whole lives, immediately of the king and his heirs. And they farther stated *that the Castle, with its appurtenances, was held of the lord king in capite, by the services of coming to the coronation of the lord king, completely armed with royal arms of the livery of the lord king, and sitting upon the principal royal war-horse, and opposing himself against any person who should gainsay the royal coronation. If none should offer opposition, throughout the whole proceedings, the arms and war-horse should revert to the royal use: but, if any should oppose themselves, the arms with the war-horse should be taken for the use of the tenant, himself, of the Castle.* And the Castle, with its appurtenances, in all its issues, was valued, a-year, according to its true worth, at ten marks. It was also declared that there remained to Alexander and Joan, beyond the Castle, a third part of the manor of Middleton, in Warwickshire, of the inheritance of Joan, which was held of the Church of St. Editha at Tamworth, in capite, by service of 2s. 2½d. and the third part of a half-penny: and it was valued, a-year, in all its issues, according to its true worth, at 10l. Also they possessed the manor of Ferne, in Herefordshire, with appurtenances, of the inheritance of Joan, which was held of the lord king in capite, by service of the fourth part of a knight's fee: and valued, a-year, according to

its true worth, at 100*s.* They also held Crownest, in Worcestershire, of the inheritance of Alexander, of the abbey at Worcester, by service of a rose annually: and valued, a-year, in all its issues, according to its true value, at 40*s.* And finally they held Rughall, in Worcestershire, of the inheritance of Alexander, of the bishop of Worcester, by service of 5*s.*: and valued, a-year, in all its issues, according to its true value, at 40*s.*¹ The annual value of all these possessions, therefore, was 25*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

So favourable an answer having been returned to the writ, letters patent were granted by the king, dated at Kenilworth on the last day but one of December following, in which, a fine of 20*l.* having been paid to the king by Baldwin, licence was given to Alexander and Joan that they might enfeoff Baldwin of the Castle, to be held by him and his heirs of the king and his successors *by the due and usual services for ever*: and to Baldwin that he, having full and peaceable seisin, might give it to Alexander and Joan, to be held for the whole life of either of them, from the king, by the accustomed services. And, after the death of Alexander and Joan, the Castle should revert entirely to Baldwin and his heirs, who should hold it of the king, and render the services to him.²

But, very shortly afterwards, it would seem that a dispute arose between Alexander and Baldwin, apparently from the latter having neglected to perform his part of the stipulation, to make a grant of the Castle to the former. However, Alexander and Joan retained a forcible possession. In the ensuing Easter term, a suit took place, Baldwin being plaintiff and Alexander

¹ Inquis., 17 Ed. II. ² Letters patent, 17 Ed. II.

and Joan deforciant of the Castle. An agreement was made by precept of the king himself. Baldwin granted the Castle to Alexander and Joan, for their lives, and settled the reversion upon himself.¹

All these particulars, except the decision of the suit which Thomas gives in his edition of Dugdale, have been hitherto entirely unknown. Interesting, however, as these circumstances may be, the testimony that the Castle of Tamworth was held by the Royal Championship is of far greater importance than any other point. It must be observed that *this is the earliest record of any nature whatsoever which mentions such an office in this country as that of the king's Champion*. It forms the first link of the chain of evidence, which we shall adduce upon this point, in vindication of the honour of Tamworth. It is worthy of remark that, before the coronation of Edward III., no mention is made of the Champion having exercised his duties. This can scarcely excite surprise, as the accounts of the ceremony, in the majority of previous instances, have not been preserved. But, when Edward III. was crowned, on the 1st of February, 1326-7, *Alexander de Frevile performed the office of Champion, in right of his barony and Castle of Tamworth*.² This circumstance, it is true, we give only on the authority of Collins: and it might be called in question, were it not supported by evidence which stamps with the mark of undeniable authenticity.

Alexander de Frevile died in 1328, before his wife; leaving Baldwin his son and heir, then thirty-six years of age. Edward III. directed a writ to the escheator of

¹ Thomas attached the account of the suit in a note to the name of Baldwin, brother of Alexander. Had he paid attention to Dugdale's marginal reference, he would have seen that this Baldwin had been dead some years.

² Collins's Peerage.

the county of Warwick, commanding him to enquire what lands he held of the crown in capite, and by what service, on the day of his death. An inquisition was accordingly taken. The jurors then stated upon oath, amongst other smaller matters, that he held, jointly with Joan his wife, the Castle of Tamworth of the lord king, in capite, *by service of coming to the coronation of the lord king completely armed with royal arms of the livery of the lord king, and sitting upon the principal royal war-horse, offering himself to make trial of combat in the king's place against all persons gainsaying the coronation of the king. If no one should make opposition, the arms and horse should belong to the lord king, but if any one should oppose himself and engage in encounter, they should remain to the tenant of this Castle.*¹ All the possessions of Alexander were, according to custom, taken into the king's hands. Soon afterwards, the king directed his writ, dated at Clepston, on the 25th of August, to the escheator of Warwickshire, stating that, as it appeared by the inquisition, Alexander died seized of the Castle jointly with Joan, and that *it was held by Royal Championship*,² he should deliver it up to Joan, who had done fealty for the same.³ This inquisition and writ of livery have been regarded as the earliest records of the office of Champion. We have given a document several years older.

Joan de Frevile continued in the possession of Tamworth-Castle, for a considerable time. She died in 1340: and the inquisition then taken states that she was seized of the Castle, which she held of the king in capite,

¹ Rot. pat. 1 Ric. II., pars 1., p. inspex.

² The words are the same as in the inquisition, except that "dominus rex" is necessarily changed in "noster."

³ Rot. pat., 1 Ric. II., pars 1., p. inspex.

*by service of acting as Champion,*¹—the same words being used as those in the inquisition at the decease of her husband.²

Baldwin de Frevile, performing the customary homage to the king, had full possession of his mother's estates. Of him, little is known, except that he held, for a very brief space of time, the Warwickshire part of Tamworth, granted him by Edward II., in 1317.

In 1342, he borrowed of sir Fulk de Birmingham, knt., the sum of forty-eight marks; for which he gave his creditor five mills at Tamworth.—three of which were situated on the Warwickshire side, and two on the Staffordshire side,—in lease for the term of one year.³

He died three years after his mother; leaving by Elizabeth his wife, a son and heir, Baldwin, then twenty-six years old.

Baldwin, in the following year, did homage, and had livery of all the lands of his inheritance; which lay in the counties of Warwick, Hereford, Salop, Stafford, Worcester, Wilts, Norfolk, and Suffolk. In 1352, he was a knight, and bore for his arms,—Or, a cross flory Gu; and for his crest,—upon a chapeau, the leg of a man booted, spurred, and reversed. Not long afterwards, he substituted a plume of feathers for the latter. He fought in the warfare with France: and was greatly esteemed by Edward the Black Prince. For his approved fidelity and service, the prince, in 1364, constituted him his seneschal of Xantaigne, during his life.

In 1368, sir Baldwin Frevile went with the Black prince, in his wars of Gascoigne; and soon afterwards he accompanied John of Gaunt, earl of Lancaster, to

¹ By deputy of course. ² Inquis. p. mortem, 13 E. III., no 14.

³ Dugdale's Warwickshire. This work has been mainly consulted in the account of the Freviles.

Mount-Paon, and was present when it surrendered to the English. In 1372, he was retained by indenture to serve prince Edward in the French wars; with six men at arms,—three knights and three esquires, taking 20*l.* a-year for the former, and ten marks for the latter.

After the withdrawal of the Black-prince into England, on account of his increasing and eventually fatal ill-health, sir Baldwin continued in France. It happened very singularly, that he, being one of the leaders of the English, with others, accompanied by full six hundred men, entered Rochelle on the evening of midsummer-day, 1372, when John Hastings, earl of Pembroke, was defeated and taken prisoner. The Spaniards, intoxicated with joy at their victory, had set sail that afternoon for their own country. Sir Baldwin and his companions were completely ignorant of the disastrous occurrence. When they heard the news, they were sorely afflicted, and considered themselves more unfortunate than they had ever yet been, in not having arrived at the place sooner to aid their countrymen.¹

Sir Baldwin died in 1375. He had three wives,—Elizabeth, sister and coheiress of sir John Mountford, *knt.*, of Beaudesert, in Warwickshire; Ida, daughter of Clinton, a lady of honour to queen Philippa; and Joan, daughter of lord Strange. By his first wife, he had a son and heir, Baldwin, who, at his father's decease, was a knight, and twenty-four years of age.

At the coronation of Richard II., which took place at Westminster, on the 16th of July, 1377, the right of sir Baldwin Frevile to perform the celebrated service of Championship, was disputed by sir John Dymoke, owner of Scrivelsby. The latter petitioned that he

¹ Froissart.

might be allowed the office, as appertaining to him, in right of Margaret his wife, by tenure of Scrivelsby, as her ancestors had in the time of the king's progenitors. Margaret was the grand-daughter of Philip de Marmyon, by Joan his youngest child. Sir Baldwin Frevile immediately put in a counter-claim. He petitioned for his right, because he was one of the heirs of Philip de Marmyon, "*qe come tient Chastell de Tamworth, en le Countee de Warrewyk, de n're tres-doubte S' le Roi, come de Coronne, d'el Heritage le dit Philip a la dit file afferant en p'te de sa purp'tie, p' les services d'estre a la Coronement n're, dit S' le Roi, in ses Armures, & sur un des Destres le Roi; si nul voleit contredire son dit Coronement de la deffendre come a lui app'tient,*" &c.¹

The cause was now brought forwards for adjudication. It does not appear that sir Baldwin produced all if any of his evidences in support of his claim. Sir John Dymoke did so; and thereupon the king commanded that he, "*ista vice,*" should perform the service, in right of the manor of Scrivelsby. But, if sir Baldwin, within three weeks after the feast of St. Hilary next ensuing, should come and show the reasons and evidences by which he supported his demand, he should be heard, and full justice done to him. In consequence of this decision, sir John Dymoke acted as Champion at this coronation. Sir Baldwin afterwards produced his evidences: they were exemplified by the king, and enrolled upon the records of the court of Chancery.²

Very little is recorded of this sir Baldwin Frevile. In 1379, he was appointed one of the commissioners

¹ *Claus. et Clam. Coronat.* I Ric. II. m. 44 :—Banks's Hist.

² *Rot. pat.*, I Ric. II., pars 1.

for the arraying of men in the county of Warwick. On the partition of the lands of sir John Mountford, in 1385, to which he was heir in his mother's right, jointly with sir Thomas Boteler, knt., he had assigned to him, the manor of Ashtead, in Surrey; Gunthorpe and Lowdham, in the county of Nottingham; and the reversion of the manors of Henley, Beaudesert, and Haselholt, in Warwickshire, which William de Beauchamp, lord of Abergavenny, retained for his natural life. He was espoused to Elizabeth, the daughter of sir John Botetourt, of Weorley-castle, in Worcestershire, in 1353, when he was about two years old; but she died very young. He afterwards married her sister Joice. She eventually out-lived him, and took as her second husband sir Adam Peshale.¹ This Joice became, in 1406, one of the coheiresses of Joice her niece, only child of John, son of sir John Botetourt; and thus were conveyed to Ferrers, owner of Tamworth-Castle, very considerable lands.

Sir Baldwin Frevile died in 1387. The inquisition taken upon his decease specifies that he held the Castle of Tamworth of the lord king, in capite "*per servitium veniendi ad coronacionem Domini Regis, in armis regis de liberacone Domini Regis universaliter armatus, super principalem dextrarium Domini Regis sedens, offerens se ad probaconem pro Rege faciend' contra omnes coronacionem Regis contradicentes: et si nullus contradixerit sint arma et equus Domini Regis; si autem aliquis se opponat et congressum faciat, remanebunt arma et equus dicto tenenti.*"

¹ Adam Peshale, and Joice his wife, in 1389, granted the manors of Lee and Stretford, near Tamworth, and a third part of the manor of Middleton, which were of the dower of Joice, to Baldwin Frevile, for 200*l.* sterling.

² Such are the words in which the service of Champion is named in the documents belonging to Tamworth-Castle, except in the inquisition of 1338, which is thus

Sir Baldwin had a son and heir, named Baldwin, who succeeded him. He was nineteen years old at his father's death: and, in the following year, he married Joan, daughter of sir Thomas Green, knt. At the coronation of Henry IV., on the 13th of October, 1399, he exhibited his claim to the office of Champion, in opposition to that of Margaret, widow of sir John Dymoke. But she, by her son, was permitted to perform the service.¹

The last sir Baldwin died in 1400; and it was then stated that he was seized of the Castle of Tamworth, valued altogether at 12*l.* a-year, *by the same service as his father,*²—that of Royal Championship.

As it is the last time that this distinguished office is mentioned in connection with Tamworth, we may here draw the subject of the Championship to a conclusion. The claim in the reign of Henry IV. is the last upon record in favour of the Castle. The possessor when Henry V. ascended the throne was a minor; and the Castle afterwards passed by a coheiress to the Ferrers' family. As no records are now extant containing the proceedings on this matter, at any of the coronations from Henry V. to James I., it is impossible to ascertain if the claim were renewed or not. The Dymokes have continued to perform the office to the present time. The first document which mentions the service in connexion with Scrivelsby, is dated in 8 Edw. III.,—1334. *Tamworth-Castle possesses three older records upon this*

worded. "Et [juratores] dicu't q'd d'c'm Castri', cu' p'tin', tenet' de d'no Rege, in capite, p' seruicia veniendi ad coronaco'em d'ni Regis, armis regis de lib'aco'e d'ni Regis vniu'salit' armatus, sup' p'ncipale' dextr'ium regiu' sedens, om'ini' se appone'a coronacioni regie contradicenti: q'd si nullus se, p' totam dietam, opposuerit, arma p'd'ca & dextr'ium in vsus regie reu'tant. Si aute' aliquis se opposuerit, d'ca arma cu' dextr'io in vsus tenent ip'ius tenentis Castri p'd'ci."

1 Rot. Serv. ad Coron. R. H. IV.

2 Inquis. 2 H. IV.

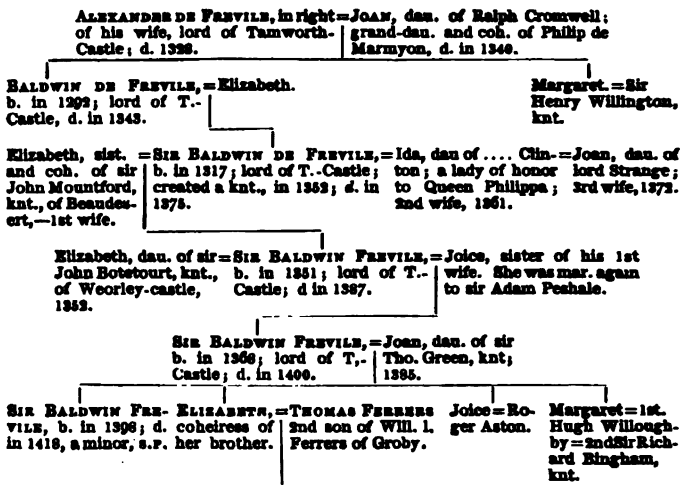
point. The inquisitions both of Tamworth-Castle and Scrivelsby state that they were held by the same service. The legitimate conclusion is, that they were given to the Marmyons at the same time, and to be enjoyed by the same tenure. *Therefore, the owners of these two places ought to exercise the office of Royal Champion alternately.* Such is the case with various other services, where the property originally granted has been since divided amongst different owners. It may be asked if the laches would not extinguish the right; which would then belong solely to the Dymokes, on account of their long enjoyment of it. This question the house of Peers alone can decide. In the case of lord Grey of Ruthyn, at the coronation of James II., it was agreed that the laches would not have that effect. Omissions were then proved for nearly three-hundred years.¹

Baldwin Frevile was succeeded by his son and heir Baldwin, at that time only two years old. This last sir Baldwin died upon the Thursday in the third week of Lent, 1418, being still a minor and unmarried. He left his three sisters his coheirs, Elizabeth, Joice, and Margaret. The eldest was married to Thomas Ferrers; the next, to Roger Aston; and the youngest, to Hugh Willoughby, afterwards to sir Richard Bingham, knt.

A partition of the possessions of which sir Baldwin Frevile died seized, is stated to have been made amongst the coheireses, on the 17th of August, 1423; whose husbands, in their right, held them. To Thomas Ferrers, were given,—the Castle and manor of Tamworth, valued at 21*l.* 17*s.* 11½*d.*; Taddington, at 16*l.*; Merston, at 17*l.* 13*s.* 6½*d.*; Combe, at 10*l.* 6*s.*; Stivichall, at 11*l.* 2*s.*

¹ Collins's Precedents.

ARMS OF FREVILLE:—OR, A CROSS FLORY GU.



8*d.*; Stretford, at 10*l.* 8*d.*; Coventry, at 24*s.* 6*d.*; and Waverton, at 4*l.* 12*d.*—total 87*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* To Roger Aston, were assigned,—Ashtead, estimated at 48*l.* 9*s.* 5½*d.*; Henley-in-Arden, at 23*l.* 5*s.* 3½*d.*; Pinley, at 12*l.* 8*d.*; Becknor, at 39*s.* 3*d.*; and Yatesbury, at 43*s.* 4*d.*,—total 87*l.* 18*s.* To Hugh Willoughby were given,—Middleton, valued at 33*l.* 5*s.* 2½*d.*; Gunthorpe, at 16*l.* 14*s.* 9½*d.*; Wyken, at 16*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*; Bradford, at 106*s.* 8*d.*; Ferne, at 8*l.*; Whitnash, at 48*s.*; Maun, at 73*l.* 3*d.*; Whitley, at 9*s.* 4*d.*; Coventry, at 9*s.*; and the return of a fourth part of the manor of Ashtead, at 10*s.* 11*d.*,—total 87*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*¹

¹ Such is the statement given in an old parchment entitled "Partic^o t're & tene^{me}nt' que fuer' Baldewyn' Frevile die obitus sui, videl' t, int' Thom' de Ferrar', Rog'um Aston, & Hugon' Wyloughby, fact' apud Leyc', xvij die Augusti, A^o R. E. Henr' sexti post conquestu' p'mo. Yet it seems that no such division was in effect, but that the husbands of the three coheireses had concurrent interests in the whole, although Thomas Ferrers inhabited the Castle. Perhaps the "partitio" was not adopted. But the document is of great use, because it gives the value of the possessions.

This Thomas Ferrers was second son of William, lord Ferrers of Groby, of the eminent family of the ancient earls of Derby.

PEDIGREE OF THE FERRERS' FAMILY.

WALCHELINE, a Norman. His son,

HENRY, assumed the surname de Ferrariis or Ferrers, from a small town in Gastenois, abounding with iron-mines. In allusion to his name, he bore six horse-shoes for his arms. He came into England with the Conqueror; and had granted to him lands in the cos. of Berks, Derby, Essex, Gloucester, Hereford, Leicester, Northampton, Nottingham, Stafford, Warwick, and Wilts. He seated himself at Tutbury-castle: and there, in 1080, he founded a monastery for Cluniac monks. By Bertha, he had issue,

I.-II. EUGENULPH and WIL., *d. s. p.*

III. ROBERT, his successor.

IV. AMICE, *m.* to Nigel de Albini.

V.-VI. GUNDEDA, and EMMELINE.

ROBERT DE FERRERS, for his services in war against Maud's supporter, David k. of Scots, was, in 1138, created earl of Derby, by Stephen. He *d.* in 1139; leaving, by Hadewise,

I. ISOLDA, *m.* to Steph. de Beauchamp.

II. MATILDA, *m.* to Bertrand de Verdon.

III. ROBERT, his heir.

IV. A DAU., *m.* to Walcheline Maminot.

V. Walcheline, baron of Okeham, co. of Rutland, 1164; living 1191. He had I. HUGH, baron of Okeham, who *m.* the dau. and h. of Hugh de Say; living 1197, but *d. s. p.* II. WIL., *d. v. p.* and *s. p.* And III. ISABELL, *m.* to Rog. de Mortimer; heiress of her brother.

ROBERT DE FERRERS, 2nd earl of Derby, styled himself "Robertus, comes junior de Ferrariis," and "Robertus, comes junior de Nottingham." He founded Merevale-abbey, co. of Warwick (*see. p.* 56), and lies *bur.* there. He was succeeded by his son and heir,

WILLIAM DE FERRERS, 3rd earl of Derby, living 1167. He *m.* Margaret, dau. and h. of Will. Peverel, 3rd and last lord of Nottingham; and had,

I. ROBERT, his successor

II. WALCHELINE, lord of Eggerton, co. of Derby, who *m.* Goda, dau. of Rob. de Toni.

ROBERT DE FERRERS, 4th earl of Derby, sided with pr. Henry in his rebellion against his father, Hen. II. He was pardoned; but his castles of Tutbury and Duffield were demolished. By Sibilla, his wife, dau. of William de Braose, he left issue,

I. WIL. his heir.

II. MILISCENT, *m.* to Roger de Mortimer, of Wigmore.

III. AGATHA, mistress of k. John.

IV. PETRONELLA, *m.* to Harvey, lord of Stafford.

WILLIAM DE FERRERS was deprived of his earldoms by Rich. I., in 1189; but they were soon restored. He accompanied the king into Palestine; and fell at the siege of Acre, in 1190. By Sibella, his wife, he left,

I. WIL., his heir.

II. HENRY, *m.* Margaret.

III. ROBERT.

WILLIAM DE FERRERS, 6th earl of Derby, noted for his firm attachment to John and Hen. III. in all their troubles, *d.* Sept. 22nd, 1247. In that month, his countess Agnes *d.* She was one of the daus. of Hugh Cyvelioc, earl palatine of Chester, and sist. and coh. of Ralph Blundevile, earl of Chester and Lincoln. By her, he had

I. WIL., his heir.

II. THOMAS.

III. HUGH.

IV. ROBERT.

WILLIAM DE FERRERS, 7th earl of Derby, held Chartley in his mother's right. He suffered from his father's infirmity, the gout. Being unable to walk, he was driven out in a chariot; which, through the driver's carelessness, fell off the bridge of St. Neot's, March 22nd, 1253-4. He soon *d.* of his bruises; and was *bur.* in Merevale-abbey. His arms were, Vairy Or and Gu., a border Az. sc-

Having thus acquired the Castle of Tamworth, he made it his principal residence. He was constituted sheriff for the county of Stafford, in 1447, and again in

mee of horse-shoes Arg.¹ By his first wife, Sibell, dau. and h. of Will. Marshall, earl of Pembroke, he had 7 daughters.—1. AGNES, m. to Will. de Vesci; 2. ISABELL, m. to Gilbert Basset, again to Reginald de Mohun; 3. MATILDA, m. to Will. de Kime, again to Will. de Vinonia, again to Emeric de Rupe-Canardi; 4. SIBELLA, m. to Francis de Bohun, of Midhuret; 5. JOAN, m. to Rog. Aguilon, again to John de Mohun; 6. AGAETHA, m. to Hugh de Mortimer, of Chelmarsh; 7. ALIANORE, m. to Will. de Vallibus, again to Roger de Quinci, earl of Winchester, and again to Rog. de Leyburn. By his 2nd wife, Margaret, dau. and coh. of Rog. de Quinci, 2nd earl of Winchester by Helen, dau. and coh. of Alan lord of Galloway, he had,

1. ROBERT, his successor.

2. WILL., of whom presently.

ROBERT DE FERRERS, 8th and last earl of Derby, was a minor at his father's death. He sided with the barons against Hen. III.; so that, in 1266, he was deprived of titles and estates. His lands were conferred on Edmund Plantagenet, the king's son. He d. in 1274, of the gout, in poverty. He had two wives,—Maria, dau. of Hugh le Brun, earl of Angouleme, and niece of Hen. III., s. p.; and 1269 Alianore, dau. of Ralph lord Basset, living at his decease; by whom he had a son, John, progenitor of the family of Ferrers, barons of Chartley. He bore his father's arms without the border.

WILLIAM DE FERRERS, 2nd son of 7th earl of Derby, being armed against Hen. III., was taken at Northampton, in 1264; but was pardoned. He had grant of the manor of Groby, co. of Leicester, from his mother, and assumed the armorial

bearings of her family,—Gu, 7 mascles Or conjoined 3 3 and 1. He m. Helen, dau. of Matthew lord Lovaine, of Stanes; who d. in 1287. He was succeeded by his son and heir,

WILLIAM DE FERRERS, summoned to parliament as baron of Groby from Jan. 26th, 1297, to Feb. 20th, 1325, when he d. He m. Elizabeth, dau. of John lord Segrave. His son,

HENRY DE FERRERS, 3rd baron of Groby, was summoned to parliament from June 5th, 1331, to Nov. 20th, 1341. He d. Sept. 15th, 1342. He m. 1st, Isabell, dau. and h. of Theobald, lord Verdon; 2nd, Elizabeth, dau. and coh. of Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester, by Joan dau. of Edw. I. By his 2nd wife, he had, besides a dau. PHILIPPA, m. to Guy de Beauchamp.

WILLIAM DE FERRERS, 4th baron of Groby, 11 yrs. old at his father's death, summoned as a baron from March 15th, 1344-5, to Apr. 6th, 1369. He d. in 1371. He m. Marg., dau. and h. of Rob. de Ufford, earl of Suffolk; and again Margaret, dau. of Hen. de Percy, relict of Rob., son of Gilbert de Unfraville, earl of Angus. By the first, he had,

HENRY DE FERRERS, 5th baron of Groby, b. Apr. 16th, 1357, summoned from Aug. 4th, 1377, to Dec. 17th, 1387. He m. Joan, dau. of lord Poynings; by whom he had,

WILLIAM FERRERS, 6th baron of Groby, 16 yrs. old at his father's death, summoned from Nov. 30th, 1386, to Dec. 3rd, 1441. He d. in 1444. By Philippa, dau. of Roger lord Clifford, he had,

1. HENRY, who m. Isabell, 2nd dau. and coh. of Tho. Mobery, duke of Norfolk. He d. v. p. leaving an only dau., ELIZABETH, of whom we shall immediately speak.

1 This says sir William Dugdale. But we find that, in the arms of Will. de Ferraris, earl of Derby, in the nave of Westminster-abbey, the border is absent.

the following year. In 1452, after the death of his wife, Elizabeth, a new division of the lands of the last sir Baldwin Frevile was made, bearing date upon the 5th of

II. THOMAS, of whom presently.

III. JOHN; from whom descended the Ferrerses of Mercute, now extinct.

ELIZABETH FERRERS, sole heiress of William, her grand-father, was m. to Edward Grey, son of Reginald, 3rd lord Grey of Ruthyn; who in her right, became baron Ferrers of Groby; and by that title he was summoned to parliament from Dec. 14th, 1446, to Jan. 2nd, 1448-9; and, as baron of Groby, from Sept. 23rd, 1449, to May 26th, 1455. The great-grand son of this Elizabeth, Henry Grey, marquis of Dorset and duke of Suffolk, was beheaded for treason in 1554; and the barony of Groby then became extinct.

THOMAS FERRERS, the 2nd son, m. Elizabeth, sister and coheirress of sir Baldwin Frevile, knt. He thus acquired the CASTLE AND HONOUR OF TAMWORTH. He had,

I. THOMAS, who succeeded.

II. HENRY, a knt., of Hambleton, co., of Rutland. From him is descended the family of Ferrers of Baddeley-Clinton, co. of Warwick.

THOMAS FERRERS, b. 1422, created a knt. in 1461. He m. Ann, dau. of Leonard Hastings, of Kirby, and sister of Will. lord Hastings; who d. before him. His decease occurred Aug. 22nd, 1498. His sons were, LEONARD; RALPH, dean of the Church; and

JOHN, the eldest, who d. v. p. He m. Matilda, dau. of sir John Stanley, of Elford; and had a son,

SIR JOHN FERRERS, knt., who succeeded his grandfather. He m. Dorothy, dau. of Will. Harper, esq., of Rushall-castle, co. of Stafford. He had several children, of whom,

I. HUMPHRY succeeded.

II. ANN was m. to John Peto, esq., of Chesterton, co. of Warwick.

SIR HUMPHRY FERRERS, knight, m. 1st, Margaret, dau. of Tho. Pigot; and 2nd, Dorothy, dau. and coh. of Tho. Marrow, and relict of Francis Cockain. He d. in 1554; leaving, by his 1st wife,—besides a dau.

JANE, m. at Tamworth, June 22nd, 1573, to Arthur Gregory, esq.,—a son and heir,

JOHN FERRERS, esq., who m. Barbara Cockain. She d. in 1560, and was bur. at Tamworth Aug. 12th. It seems he re-m; for in the register of Tamworth is the entry that "7 April, 1572, was bur. Mrs. Jane Ferrers, ux' Joh'is." By his 1st wife, he had,

I. DOROTHY, m. to Edw. Holt, esq.

II. HUMPHRY, his successor.

III. EDWARD.

IV. HENRY, bur. Sept. 14th, 1602.

V. THOMAS.

VI. GEORGE, bur. July 29th, 1615.

HUMPHRY FERRERS, esq., succeeded his father, who was bur. at Tamworth, Apr. 17th, 1576. He m., 1562, Ann, dau. of Humphry Bradbourne, esq.; bur. Jan. 29th, 1599. Afterwards he m. Elizabeth, dau. of sir Ralph Longford. He was created a knight: and was bur. Jan. 9th, 1607-8. By his 1st wife, he had a numerous family.

I. JOHN, his successor.

II. WILL., bur. here July 3rd, 1577.

III.-IV.-V. WALTER, THOMAS, and EDWARD.

VI. ELIZABETH, m. at Tamworth, July 6th, 1585, to William Somerville, esq. He was knighted.

VII. KATHERINE, m. at Tamworth, Jan. 15th, 1598-4, to Geo. Hyde, gent. He was created K.B.

VIII. BRIDGET, cr. Aug. 9th, 1574; m. to Robert Eyre, esq.

IX. LETTICE, cr. 1st, bur. 4th of Sept., 1577.

X. SUSAN, cr. Apr. 6th, 1583; m. to George Greasley, esq.

SIR JOHN FERRERS, knight, m. Dorothy, dau. of sir John Puckering, knt. and bart. She was bur. here Dec. 19th, 1616; he, Aug. 5th, 1633. By her, he had,

I. HUMPHRY, son and heir.

II. FRANCES, m. to John Packington, esq. He was afterwards knighted.

III. ANN, m. here, Oct. 18th, 1614, to Simon Archer, esq., of Tanworth.

IV. JANE, m. to sir Tho. Rouse.

SIR HUMPHRY FERRERS, knt., m. one of the daughters of sir John

October. To Thomas Ferrers, then tenant by courtesy, and to Thomas, his son and heir, were given,—the Castle and manor of Tamworth; the manors of Lea near Marston, Stretford near Tamworth, and Harborough-magna, with the advowson of the church; also the manors of Stivichall near Coventry, of Taddington in Herefordshire, with lands and rents in Waverton, Allesley, and Mereden, in Warwickshire, and in Wigginton in Staffordshire. To Robert Aston, son of Roger and Joice, the manors of Ashtead and Newdigate, in Surrey; of Becknor, in Worcestershire; Yatesbury, in Wiltshire; of Pinley, near Coventry; and the moiety of the manor of Henley-in-Arden, with the advowson of the adjacent church of Preston-Baggott. To sir Richard Bingham, *knt.*, who had married Margaret, the widow of sir Hugh Willoughby of Wollaton, in Nottinghamshire, the manors of Middleton and Whitnash, with lands at Wilnecote; the manor of Wyken, near Coventry, with lands and rents within the county of that city; and also the manors of Gunthorpe, Lowdham, Bradford, Ferne, and Maun.¹

Packington. He was *bur.* here Nov. 2nd, 1633. He had one son, and three daughters.

JOHN FERRERS, *esq.*, *b.* 1629, *m.*, about 1648, Dorothy, *da.* and *coh.* of sir Dudley Carleton, *knt.* He *d.* in 1680: and was *bur.* at Tamworth, Sept. 3rd. His children were,

i.-ii. TWO INFANTS, *bur.* Aug. 6th, 1649.

iii. ANN, *bur.* May 25th, 1651.

iv. DOROTHY, who, in 1670, was *m.* to Rich. Butler, earl of Arran. Lady Dorothy, then "countess-dowager of Arran in Ireland, and barones of Wesson, in Huntingdonshire," was *bur.* at Tamworth, Dec. 8th, 1716;

being the last of the family of Ferrers of Tamworth-Castle.

v. HUMPHRY, *b.* 1653. He was knighted: and *m.* Elizabeth, *da.* of Gervase Pigot. She survived her husband, resided latterly at Bramcote-hall, *co.* of Warw., and was *bur.* here, Aug. 30th, 1703. He was drowned in 1678, and *bur.* Sept. 25th. He left an only *da.*.

ANN FERRERS, who, in 1680, succeeded her grand-father in the possession of the Castle and Honour of Tamworth. These, in 1688, she conveyed in marriage to Robert Shirley.

¹ Dugdale's Warwickah.—The only tomb of any of the Freville-family, which we have been able to identify, is that of Margaret, and of her husband, sir Richard Bingham. It lies in the middle of the chancel of the church at Middleton, and bears their portraits in brass. From the lady's arm, hangs a rosary. Below the figures, is this inscription, in black-letter,

Thomas Ferrers died in 1458. He was then the principal of the male branch of the Ferrerses of Groby, and he bore his arms,—vairy Or and Gu,—with a label of three points Azure. He was the father of Thomas, who succeeded to this Castle, and of sir Henry Ferrers, knt., of Hambleton, in the county of Rutland; from whom is descended the present family of Ferrers, of Baddesley-Clinton, in Warwickshire.¹

Thomas Ferrers was thirty-six years old at his father's death; and then he seated himself at Tamworth. In 1460, he was made sheriff of the counties of Warwick and Leicester; and also in the ensuing year. In the wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, he took part with the former, and signalized himself by his fidelity to Richard, duke of York, father of Edward IV. But, in the battle of Wakefield, fought upon the 30th of December, 1460, when the duke was killed and his army routed by the forces of the queen of Henry VI., he was taken prisoner. He was liberated on giving his word that he would pay a fine of three hundred marks. When, shortly afterwards, the Yorkists gained the ascendance, and Edward IV. obtained the throne, Thomas Ferrers was rewarded for his services. He was created a knight: and received a special precept from the king to the barons of the Exchequer, commanding them to give him a remittance of two hundred marks of the sum for which he was then answerable on account of his receipts whilst he was sheriff. From 1464 until his death,

HIC LACET D'NUS RICARDUS BINGHAM, MILER, JUSTICIARIUS DE BANCO D'NI REGIS, QUI OBLIT XXII DIE MAII, ANNO MILLIMO CCCC LXXVJ, ET D'NA MARGARETA, SUA CONJUX; QUOR' A'ARUS P'FICIE' DEUS. AME'.

In the four quarters were once coats of arms. Those of Freville now alone remain. Dugdale gives two more,—a fret, for Bingham, and Bingham impaling Freville. The fourth was lost in his time.

1 Dugdale's Warwickshire.

he was one of the commissioners for the conservation of the peace in Warwickshire ; and, in 1468, he was again appointed sheriff of this county. In 1473, he was made a knight of the Bath, at the creation of Richard Plantagenet, second son of the king and duke of York. He married Ann, daughter of Leonard Hastings of Kirby, and sister of William lord Hastings. By her, he had three sons, sir John, who died in his father's life time, and of whom little occurs, except that he was in the king's service in Normandy, in 1475 ; Leonard ; and Ralph, dean of the Church of this town. He died on the 22nd of August, 1498, leaving his grandson sir John his heir, who was son of John, and Matilda his wife, daughter of sir John Stanley, knt., of Elford.¹

Sir John Ferrers was one of the knights of the body to king Henry VII. ; and a commissioner for the peace in Warwickshire, from 1502 until his decease. He married Dorothy, daughter of William Harper, esq., of Rushall-castle, in Staffordshire ; and had, besides a son, a daughter Ann, who was married, about 1541, to John Peto, esq., of Chesterton, in Warwickshire. He died in 1512. By his will, he bequeathed his body for burial within the chancel of the Church of Tamworth, before the image of St. Editha.² It is a singular coincidence that his decease took place upon the festival of that saint. His widow survived him for many years.

Sir Humphry Ferrers succeeded his father. He married first, Margaret, daughter of Thomas Pigot, sergeant-at-law ; and secondly, in 1540, Dorothy, daughter and coheirress of Thomas Marrow, sergeant-at-law, who was the widow of Francis Cockain, esq., of Pooly. He died on the 13th of September, 1554, in the reign

¹ Dugdale's Warwickshire.

² Ibid.

of Philip and Mary, leaving, by his first wife, a son and heir,

John Ferrers, esq., who had married, in 1539, Barbara Cockain, the daughter of his mother-in-law. He had issue,—Dorothy, who married Edward Holt, esq.; Humphry, his eldest son and heir; Edward; Henry; Thomas; and George. He died in April, 1576.¹

Humphry Ferrers, esq., succeeded on the death of his father. He married, in 1562, Ann, daughter of Humphry Bradbourne, esq., of Lea, in the county of Derby; and towards the end of his life Elizabeth, daughter of sir Ralph Longford, of Longford.² In 1577, and again in 1588, he was constituted sheriff of Warwickshire.³ In 1585, he was one of the justices of peace for the county of Stafford; and, on account of his occasionally residence at Walton-upon-Trent, in Derbyshire, he was one of the magistrates ordered to establish a watch and ward around the castle of Tutbury, where Mary, queen of Scots, lay imprisoned by the treachery of Elizabeth.⁴ For his services, he was afterwards created a knight. He had, by his first wife, a numerous family. His sons were, sir John, William, Walter, Thomas, and Edward: and his daughters, Elizabeth, who was married to William Somerville, esq., afterwards knt.; Catherine, to George Hyde, gent., afterwards K. B.; Briget, to Robert Eyre, esq., of Highlow; Lettice; and Susan, to George Gresley, esq., of Drakelow, who was created a baronet. Sir Humphry Ferrers died in January, 1607-8.⁵

Sir John Ferrers had been knighted, on the 23rd of April, 1603, at Beauvoir-castle, by James I., who was

¹ Dugdale's Warwicksh. ² Castle-Inscriptions. ³ Burke.

⁴ Erdeswicke:—edit 1844. In March, 1584, the inhabitants of Tamworth paid 2s. towards the maintenance of the soldiers at Tutbury.

⁵ Dugdale's Warwicksh. Castle Inscriptions. Parish Register.

on his way from Scotland to London, to assume the sceptre of England.¹ When he succeeded to his father's estates, the possessions of his inheritance, and their value, are thus enumerated.²

	£	s.	d.
The Castle of Tamworth, with Waverton-warren, Stipershill, and the demesnes of the Castle in Warwickshire, held in capite,.....	12	6	10
Lands and rents in the Warwickshire side of the town,	18	0	0
Lea and Stretford, held of the Castle of Tamworth, by unknown service,	13	9	4
Lea and Marston, in Warwickshire, held in capite, by knight's service,.....	20	0	9
Harborough-magna, with the advowson of the church, in Warwickshire, held of the duke of Norfolk,.....	7	0	0
Fleckenho, in Warwickshire, held of the bishop of Worcester,	11	16	8
Waverton, in Warwickshire, held of the Castle of Tamworth, which Edward Ferrers had for his life,.....	4	17	9
Lands and rents in the Staffordshire part of Tamworth, forming part of the demesnes of the Castle,	5	5	0
Tettenhall-Regis, in Staffordshire, held in capite,	5	5	0
Newborough, in Staffordshire, held of the duchy of Lancaster, by unknown service,	0	3	4
Claverley, in Shropshire, held in capite,	17	4	4

¹ Erdeswicke:—edit. 1844.

² M.S., temp. Jac. I.

Over and above one mill, called Astford mill, in the hands of the crown ; to which a rent was paid of 26*s.* 8*d.*

Bradford, in Shropshire, held in capite,	6	0	0
Stivichall, in the liberty of Coventry, held of the the crown as of the earl of Chester,	15	2	9

Of this sir John Brat, clerk, had an annuity of 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

Walton-upon-Trent, in Derbyshire, with the advowson of the church, held in capite,	15	18	8
--	----	----	---

Taddington-magna, called the World's end, in Herefordshire, held in capite,	15	9	7½
--	----	---	----

Orton-on-the-hill, in Leicestershire, held of the lord Ferrers, by unknown service,	1	0	0
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Hethe, in Oxfordshire, held of the duke of Buckingham, by unknown service,	10	0	0
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Magna Blounts, called "yng gyng geoberde laundre," with the advowson of the church, in Essex ; and Harford Stok, in the parish of Buttsbury, held of the marquis of Dorset, by unknown service,	36	0	0
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Champion's priors and Joys, in Essex, held of the marquis of Dorset, by unknown service,	37	6	8
--	----	---	---

Ilgers, called Lachley, in Essex, held of the marquis of Dorset, by unknown service,	13	6	8
--	----	---	---

Marks, in Magna Dunmow, in Essex, held of the duchy of Lancaster, by unknown service,	20	0	0
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This 20*l.* Thomas Ferrers had for the term of his life.

Total....	285	13	4½
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Sir John Ferrers afterwards sold several of the family estates,—Lea, Harborough-magna, Stivichall, Orton-on-the-hill, and the lands in Great Dunmow. He was sheriff of Warwickshire, in 1615: and was returned as member of parliament for Tamworth, in 1586, 1592, 1603, and 1615. He married Dorothy, daughter of sir John Puckering, knt. and bart., keeper of the great seal of England. He had a son Humphry, born in 1600; and three daughters, Frances, Ann, and Jane. Frances was married to John Packington, esq.; Ann, to Simon Archer, of Tanworth, in Warwickshire, who was created a knight by James I., in 1624; and Jane, to sir Thomas Rous, bart. He died in 1633, and was buried in the chancel of the Church.¹

Sir Humphry Ferrers, knt., who succeed his father, did not survive him very long, for he died in the autumn following. Little occurs of him except that he resided at the Castle, whilst his father took up his abode at the hall of Walton-upon-Trent. He was knighted on the 5th of September, 1617, by James I., just before the latter quitted Warwick, to which he had paid a visit: and he had the honour of entertaining this sovereign at at this Castle, in 1619, 1621, and 1624.² He married Ann, one of the daughters of sir John Packington, knt., of Hampton-Lovett, in the county of Worcester; by whom he had one son, John, and three daughters. She survived him, and was married again to Philip Stanhope, first earl of Chesterfield.³

John Ferrers, esq., born in 1629, was a minor at his father's decease. By letters patent, dated on the 8th of May, 1634, his guardianship and disposal in

¹ Dugdale's Warwicksh. ² See pp. 119, 120, 121.

³ Dugdale's Warwicksh.

marriage were given to lady Ann Ferrers, and sir Richard Brooke, knt.; with an annuity of forty marks, to be assigned by the master of the court of wards and liveries, out of the site and capital messuage of the manor of Lea, in Derbyshire; the capital messuage of the manor of Bradbourne, in the same county; the manor of Walton-upon-Trent, in the counties of Derby and Stafford, and the manor of Tatenhall-regis, in Staffordshire; and divers messuages, lands, meadows, pastures, and hereditaments, in the counties of Stafford and Derby; all which sir Humphry held at the time of his death, of the crown, in capite, by military service.¹

John Ferrers married Ann, daughter and eventually coheiress of sir Dudley Carlton, knt: and quitted his minority in 1650. By indenture, dated on the 28th of February, 1652-3, he conveyed, the manor or lordship of Walton-upon-Trent, and the several houses, lands, tithes, leasowes, pastures, feedings, woods, warrens, fisheries, fowlings, and other rights belonging to it; 120 acres of meadow near the river Trent, in Tatenhill, Barton-under-Needwood, and Walton; and several other houses, lands, and tithes, in Walton-upon-Trent, Barton-under-Needwood, Rolleston, Shuttington, Polesworth, and Waverton; and the advowson and right of patronage of Walton-church; to the behoof of sir Dudley Carlton, Matthew Carlton of Lincoln's Inn, and Thomas Carlton, their executors and assigns, for the term of ten years, from the ensuing feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin, if Ann Ferrers, his wife, should live so long: and, after the determination of that estate, to the use of himself for his natural life; without impeachment of waste. And the Castle and honour of Tamworth, with

Letters patent, 10 Car. 1.

all its rights, members, and appurtenances; and also the three corn mills and one fulling mill standing under one roof, called the Castle-mills; and Castle-meadow, and Mill-meadow; and several other lands, tenements, and tithes, in Tamworth, Stretford, Bolehall, Amington, Glascote, Wilnecote, Drayton, Bassington, Waverton, Polesworth, and Wigginton; free warren in Waverton and Polesworth; the manor and court of Stipershill; the manor of Tatenhill-regis; and the premises in that place, in Wightwick, Compton, Mergis, and Kingswood, he limited to the use of himself, during his natural life, and then to Humphry Ferrers, his son and heir apparent, and his heirs male, with several remainders over: with the proviso, that, at any time, he might make a demise, lease, or grant, of all the premises,—except those limited to sir Dudley Carleton for ten years,—for the maintenance of, and the raising of portions for, all the daughters and younger sons of himself and Ann his wife.¹

John Ferrers had only one surviving daughter, Dorothy. On her marriage with Richard Butler, earl of Arran, in Ireland, second son of James duke of Ormond, he, by indenture, dated upon the 1st of February, 1670-1, in order to provide her portion, for certain considerations, granted, in trust to sir John Packington, bart., of Westwood, in Worcestershire, and Richard Aldworth, esq., of the middle temple, the Castle and honour of Tamworth, and all the premises which he had before limited to himself and his heirs male, to be by them held for the term of one hundred years, at the annual rent of a pepper-corn. But he should be able, at any time to revoke the term of years by any writing

¹ Indenture, 1652-3.

under his hand and seal, after having tendered the sum of 5*s.* to sir John Packington, and Richard Aldworth. This he accordingly did, a short time subsequently, by a deed dated upon the 15th of April, 1673.

John Ferrers was returned to parliament for Derbyshire, after the restoration. His only son, sir Humphry Ferrers, *knt.*, was accidentally drowned in the Trent, on the 6th of September, 1678, in the twenty-fifth year of his age: he had married Elizabeth, daughter of Gervase Pigott, *esq.*, of Thrumpton, in Nottinghamshire; by whom he had an only daughter named Ann. John Ferrers, the last of the male line of the Ferrerses of Groby and Tamworth, died the 14th of August, 1680; leaving Ann, his grand-daughter, sole heiress to the Castle of Tamworth.

Ann Ferrers, in 1688, became the second wife of Robert Shirley, eldest son of Robert, baron Ferrers of Chartley. By this marriage, the estates of the two branches of the family of Ferrers—those of Chartley and of Groby,—became re-united, after a lapse of more than four centuries. She died upon the 27th of September, 1697, leaving three sons and a daughter,—Robert, born on the 28th of December, 1692; Ferrers; Thomas; and Elizabeth.

Robert Shirley died on the 25th of February, 1697-8. His father was then alive; who, not suspecting that he should survive all the male children of his eldest son, obtained, in 1711, the titles of viscount Tamworth and earl Ferrers, intending that the dignities should descend with the elder branch of his family,—the lords of this Castle. But Robert his grandson, then viscount Tamworth, died in July, 1714, unmarried. His two brothers also died; and Elizabeth Shirley became heiress of

Tamworth-Castle and all the estates. On the death of earl Ferrers, her grandfather, in 1717, she became baroness Ferrers of Chartley; but the viscountcy and earldom, being as usual limited to males, passed to her uncle, and thus went to a branch of the family totally unconnected with this town. She also then became entitled to the baronies of Basset of Drayton, Lovaine, and Bouchier.

Lady Elizabeth Shirley, on the 3rd of March, 1715-6, was married to James Compton, fifth earl of Northampton; who, in her right, became lord of this Castle. She had two sons and five daughters. George, born on the 6th of July, 1718, died on the 28th of November, 1719. James, born in 1723, died in 1739. Ann died unmarried, on the 13th of March, 1735-6. Charlotte, born on the 8th of August, 1729, alone survived. Jane, born in 1732, died in 1749, unmarried. The decease of Elizabeth countess Compton occurred on the 13th of March, 1740-1; and the barony of Chartley then fell into abeyance between her daughters, Charlotte and Jane. But, when the latter died, the dignity devolved upon her sister.

Lady Charlotte Compton was thus, in her own right, baroness Ferrers of Chartley, and baroness Basset of Drayton, Lovaine, and Bouchier. She was married, in December, 1751, to the hon. George Towshend, son of Charles third viscount Townshend of Raynham, in Norfolkshire. By the deed of settlement made previously to the marriage, dated in the middle of the same month, the viscount conveyed several manors and hereditaments in the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridge, to Charles lord Cornwallis and the right hon. Henry Fox, in trust, in order to raise 20,000*l.* for the portions of the

daughters and younger sons' resulting from the intended nuptials, payable in such manner as George Townshend should by deed direct: the possessions were to be re-



The family of Townshend, of considerable antiquity and great celebrity, has been settled at Raynham, in Norfolkshire, from the beginning of the 12th century.

ROGER TOWNSHEND, esq. was created a baronet on the 16th of April, 1617.

SIR HORATIO TOWNSHEND, 3rd bart., was one of the leading members of the Presbyterian party, during the Commonwealth. Having zealously exerted himself in the cause of the Restoration, he was rewarded by Charles II., April 20th, 1661, with a seat in the house of lords, as baron Townshend of Lynn-regis. He was created viscount Townshend of Raynham, Dec. 11th, 1682. He *d.* in 1687; leaving a son, Charles, then ten years old.

CHARLES TOWNSHEND, 2nd viscount and baron Townshend, K.G., was an eminent statesman in the reigns of Ann, Geo. I. and II. On taking his seat in parliament, in 1697, he first acted with the Tories; but

he soon went over to the Whigs, and ardently supported lord Somers. In 1702, he was named for the lord privy seal: and, in 1705, was one of the commissioners appointed to treat for the Union of Scotland. Two years afterwards, he obtained the post of captain of the yeoman of the queen's guard. In 1709, he was joint-plenipotentiary with the duke of Marlborough for the peace of Gurtruydenburg: and, in the same year, ambassador-extraordinary to the States-general of the United provinces. On the dismissal of the Whigs, in 1710, he lost his post of captain. When Geo. I. ascended the throne, he was chosen secretary of state, with power to name a colleague. From this office he was dismissed in 1717, and appointed lord-lieutenant of Ireland; but he refused to proceed into that country. He was constituted, June 11th, 1720, prebend of the council: and in 1721, he was again made secretary of state. He resigned the office, May 15th, 1730, and withdrew into private life at Raynham. He *m.* 1st Elizabeth, 2nd dau. of Tho. lord Pelham, and half sister of the duke of Newcastle; and 2nd, in 1713, Dorothy, sister of sir Robert Walpole. He *d.* June 21st, 1738, in his 63rd year. His son, by his first wife,

CHARLES TOWNSHEND, 3rd viscount and baron Townshend, *m.*, 1723, Audry, dau. and h. of Edward Harrison, esq., governor of Madras. He *d.* in 1764, leaving,

1. GEORGE, of whom presently.

2. RT. HON. CHARLES, born in 1728, a distinguished politician, who enjoyed several high offices of state. He entered the house of commons in 1747; was appointed a lord of the admiralty, 1754; treasurer of the chamber in 1756, which he resigned next year, but soon again resumed; secretary of state, in 1765; paymaster of the forces, in 1766; and chancellor of the exchequer, in 1766. He *m.* Caroline, dau. and h. of John 2nd earl of Ar-

tainted to the use of the first and other sons during the term in tale male, with remainders over. And the father of lady Charlotte Compton, James earl of North-

gyle and Greenwich, and widow of the earl of Dalketh, eldest son of the duke of Buccleuch.

GEORGE TOWNSHEND, having *m. lady Charlotte Compton*, acquired THE CASTLE AND HONOUR OF TAMWORTH. He became 4th viscount and baron Townshend, in 1764: and, in 1786, was created marquis Townshend of Raynham. His 1st wife *d.* Dec. 14th, 1770; and he *m.* 2nd, May 19th, 1773, Anne, 3rd dau. of sir Will. Montgomery, bart.; and she survived him, until 1819. This nobleman *d.* in 1807, having had by his 2nd wife a numerous family, and by his first,—

- i. **GEORGE**, his successor.
- ii. **CHARLOTTE**, *b.* Oct. 18th, 1784; *d.* March 18th, 1786.
- iii. **JOHN**, mentioned hereafter.
- iv. **CAROLINE**, *d.* young.
- v. **FRANCES**, *b.* March 28th; *d.* May 11th, 1761.
- vi. **FREDERICK-PATRICK**, a clergyman, *b.* Dec. 30th, 1767.
- vii. **CHARLES**.
- viii. **ELIZABETH**, who *m.* May 7th, 1790, major-general Will. Loftus, of Wimpole-st., London, and Kilbride, co. Wicklow, in Ireland, colonel of the second dragoon guards, and lieutenant of the tower of London. He sat successively in parliament, from 1796 to 1818, for the boroughs of Great Yarmouth and Tamworth. He *d.* July 15th, 1831, having had 6 sons, and 4 daus., of whom Charlotte *m.* lord Charles-Vere-Ferrers Townshend.

GEORGE TOWNSHEND, *b.* Apr. 18th, 1755, succeeded to the baronies of Ferrers of Chartley, Bassett of Drayton, Lovaine, Bouchier, and Compton, on the decease of his mother; was created earl of Leicester in 1784; and became the 2nd marquis, 5th viscount and baron, and 7th baronet of the family of Townshend. He *m.* Charlotte, 2nd dau. of E. M. Ellerker, esq.,—she *d.* Feb. 2nd, 1802: he *d.* in 1811.* He had,

- i. **GEORGE**, *b.* Dec. 18th, 1778. He *m.* May 15th, 1807, a dau. of Will. Dunn Gardiner esq.; and succeeded to the titles of the family.
- ii. **CHARLOTTE-BARBARA**, *b.* June 26th,

1781; *d.* Oct. 3rd. 1807. She *m.* Apr. 6th, 1804, lt.-col Cecil Bishop, eldest son of sir Cecil Bishop, bart., afterwards lord Zouch.

iii. **HARRIETT-ANN** *b.* 23rd May, 1783, *d.* June, 1843. She was *m.* March 11th, 1815, to Edward Ferrers, esq., of Baddeley-Clinton, co. of Warwick, lineally descended from the 1st Thomas Ferrers of Tamworth-Castle. The issue were, Marmion-Edward, Charles, Groby-Thomas, Compton-Gerard, Tamworth-George, Henrietta-Elizabeth, Margaret-Anne, and Constance-Charlotte.

iv. **ELIZABETH-MARGARET**, *b.* Aug. 16th, 1784; who was *m.* 1815, to Joseph Moore Boulton, esq.

v. **CHARLES VERE** *b.* Apr. 16th, 1785. His lordship represented Tamworth in parliament for many years: and he now possesses by purchase the Castle and honour of Tamworth. A recent decision of the house of peers has declared him entitled to the dignity of earl of Leicester, and consequently hereafter to the other titles of his family, on account of irregularity in his elder brother's family. Lord Charles Townshend, who resides at Raynham, *m.* March 24th, 1812, Charlotte, eldest dau. of major-general Will. Loftus; but his lordship has no issue.

LORD JOHN TOWNSHEND, 2nd son of the 1st marquis, *b.* Jan. 19th, 1757, *m.* Apr. 10th, 1787, Georgiana-Ann, dau. and h. of William Points, esq., who had been deforced from William Fawkener, esq. The issue were,

- i. **AUDRY-HARRIETT**, *b.* Feb. 1st, 1778, and *m.* Oct. 16th, 1826, to the rev. Rob. Ridsdale.
- ii. **ELIZABETH-FRANCES**, *b.* Aug. 2nd, 1789; and *m.* Oct. 20th, 1813, capt. Augustus-Will. James Clifford, R.N.
- iii. **ISABELL-GEORGIANA**, *b.* Feb. 1st, 1791, and *d.* Sept. 17th, 1811.
- iv. **JANE**, *b.* Sept. 28th, 1793.
- v. **CHARLES-FOX**, *b.* June 28th, 1793, and *d.* Apr. 2nd, 1817, *s. p.*
- vi. **ANN**, *b.* Aug. 31st, 1796, and *d.* July 30th, 1832.
- vii. **JOHN**, *b.* March 26th, 1798. A captain in the Royal Navy, and heir presumptive of lord Charles Townshend, his cousin. He *m.* Elizabeth-Jane,—July 18th, 1803,—eldest dau. of lord George Stewart, of Bute: and has a numerous family.
- viii. **GEORGE-OSBORNE**, a clergyman.

ampton, engaged that, immediately after his decease, Thomas duke of Newcastle, Lionel duke of Dorset, and the right hon. Henry Pelham, or the survivors of them, should receive from him 12,000*l.*, in trust, as an addition to the portions. This sum, with the consent of George Townshend and Charlotte baroness Ferrers, was to be invested in government or real securities, amongst which any part of the estates of viscount Townshend should have the preference: the interest was to be enjoyed by the latter during his son's life, then by his son if he survived, afterwards by Charlotte baroness Ferrers, and then by all the younger children.

James Compton, earl of Northampton, died on the 3rd of October, 1754, and lady Charlotte Townshend succeeded to the barony of Compton; but the earldom passed to her uncle George.

George Townshend, thus, in the right of his wife, lord of Tamworth-Castle, became, in 1764, fourth baron Townshend of Lynn-regis and viscount Townshend of Raynham, in consequence of the decease of his father, on the 13th of March. The latter, by his will dated on the 16th of October previous, reciting that he was seized of divers manors and hereditaments, in Norfolk, not included in the settlement, devised all his landed property to his son during his life, with remainder to trustees and their heirs during his life to support the contingent remainders, with remainder to his first and every other son successively in tale male, with remainders over. And, after stating that he had paid off several sums of money charged upon his real estates, he bequeathed the same amounting of 24,000*l.* and all securities to Edward Bacon, William S. Powell, and Philip Case, in trust, to receive the yearly profits and place them out

to interest, until a sufficient fund should be raised to pay 4,000*l.* charged on his family-estates, 9,823*l.* 5*s.* charged on estates in Norfolk, and the 20,000*l.* directed to be raised under the settlement of 1751. And, after the fund should be raised and the sums paid, he willed that all the securities should be assigned over in trust to attend the inheritance, so that the monies might be merged in the estates. But, by a codicil, dated on the 2nd of November, he appointed Colby Bullock to be trustee in place of W. S. Powell.

George viscount Townshend had issue, by lady Charlotte,—George, his successor; Charlotte, who died young; John; Caroline and Frances, who died infants; Frederick-Patrick; Charles-Thomas-Patrick; and Elizabeth. The decease of lady Charlotte Townshend occurred on the 14th of September, 1770; and her eldest son George became in consequence baron Ferrers of Chartley, and also baron Lovaine, Basset of Drayton, Bouchier, and Compton.

By deed, dated on the 12th of February, 1776, the manors and hereditaments in the counties of Norfolk and Cambridge comprised in the indentures of 1751 and devised by the will; and also the Castle of Tamworth¹ and the honour and manor of it; the three corn-mills and one fulling-mill standing under one roof and called the Castle-mills; Castle-meadow, Mill-meadow, Secking-ton-meadow, leaward or Castle-park, the two Strerford-

¹ Copy rental and account to Lady-day, 1777.

Total net cash received at Tamworth, from the old estate, to Lady-day, 1777,				252	9	3
Ditto, from the new estate, to the same time,				298	8	0
Ditto, from the new estate, not in settlement,				18	14	3
Ditto, at Walton, to the same time,				534	10	11
Ditto, Bradbourne, to the same time,				302	16	10
Total <i>£</i>				1483	19	3

fields, Suits-orchard, and all other lands and tenements appertaining to the Castle; all others whatsoever belonging to George viscount Townshend and George lord Ferrers, in Stretford, Bolehall, Amington, Glascote, Wilnecote, Drayton, Bassington, and Wigginton; all those belonging to the viscount and baron in Waverton and Polesworth, and the free warren in those places; the manor and court of Stipershill; the manors of Bradbourne and Lea; all their messuages, lands, and tithes, in Bradbourne, Lea, Boylston, Parwich, Bentley, Kinteton, Tissington, Hognaston, Atlow, Brassington, Monteridge, Wicksworth, and Ashbourne, or elsewhere in the Peake; the manor of Walton-upon-Trent, and the advowson of the church there; and the meadow-ground, containing 120 acres, lying near the Trent in Tettenhill, Barton-under-Needwood, and Walton; were limited to the use of such persons and for such purposes as by George viscount Townshend and George lord Ferrers should afterwards by deed jointly, or by the latter if he survived, be appointed and directed.

Accordingly by indentures of the 19th and 20th of March, in the following year, George viscount Townshend and George baron Ferrers assigned the above-named possessions, and other manors and hereditaments in the counties of Norfolk, Warwick, and Stafford, to Thomas Beevor and the hon. Charles Vernon, to the use of the right hon. Thomas Townshend, Richard Jackson, and Henry Drummond, for the term of 2,000 years, without impeachment of waste, in trust, subject to a full yearly rent of 2,000*l.*, to be paid to George viscount Townshend during his natural life, with remainder to Beevor and Vernon, for such persons and for such purposes as the viscount and baron should by deed

appoint and direct, with or without power of revocation; and, until the appointment should be made, to the use of the latter and his heirs male, with remainders over. And it was declared that the trust was vested in Thomas Townshend, Richard Jackson, and Henry Drummond, to raise, by sale or mortgage, the sum of 73,300*l.*, and another of 2,000*l.* to pay particular law-charges, of which 3,300*l.* should be given to George baron Ferrers for his own use, whilst the rest was to be employed in the discharge of all debts and encumbrances on the family-estates. And by indenture of the 5th of April following, reciting that certain persons had agreed to advance the required sums,—Charles lord Cadogan, 15,000*l.* and 10,000*l.*; Vere lord Vere, 20,000*l.*; Thomas lord Pelham, 12,541*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; Thomas-Walley Partington and Charles Greenwood, 758*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* and 10,000*l.*; and John Willington, 7,000*l.*,—the three trustees named in the last deed, with the consent of the viscount and his son and at the appointment of the persons above-named, transferred all the property comprised in the term of 2,000 years to Robert Drummond and Richard Cox, in trust, for those who had advanced the money; but with a proviso for redemption on payment of the sums, with due interest, by the viscount or his heirs.

George viscount Townshend was advanced to the higher dignity of marquis Townshend of Raynham, by letters patent of the 27th of October, 1786. On the marriage of his daughter, lady Elizabeth, with William Loftus, in 1790, he assigned to her, on the 26th of April, 8,135*l.* 8*s.* 1½*d.*, being her part of the accumulated sums secured to the daughters and younger sons. This, with 3,000*l.* given by him in addition, was, the next

day, vested in lord Frederick Townshend and John Wolf, in trust, for lady Elizabeth, until the marriage should take place, afterwards for William Loftus and herself or the survivor; and then the sum was to be invested in government or real security for the benefit of their issue. The remainder of the portions was, by direction of the marquis, on the 2nd of August following, assigned to the three younger sons, John, Frederick-Patrick, and Charles-Thomas-Patrick. The latter died intestate in May, 1796, having then received 2,500*l.*: his father obtained letters of administration and took the remainder all but 935*l.* 8*s.* 1½*d.*

George marquis Townshend was a field-marshal; and attained some political dignity, being, at one time, on the privy council, and also lord lieutenant of Ireland. He died on the 19th of September, 1807, and was succeeded by his son George, who, on the 18th of May, 1784, had been created earl of the county of Leicester.

By indentures of the 30th and 31st of May, 1811, for specified considerations, Thomas lord Walsingham, Robert Blake, and John Robins, who had become trustees, by the direction of the second marquis Townshend, and with the approbation of the numerous persons to whom the sums raised had become due, released and confirmed to John Smith and Francis-Williams Sanders, all the manors, lands, and other hereditaments, of which the marquis was seized in the counties of Norfolk, Cambridge, and Derby, to hold in trust, to complete certain contracts for the sale of part of the hereditaments; and, out of those not already contracted for disposal, to raise, by sale or mortgage, so much in aid of the purchase-monies as would suffice to pay several

sums mentioned, according to their respective priorities, with due interest, and all expences. Amongst these sums were,—20,000*l.* due to Edward-Miller Mundy, originally lent by Vere lord Vere; 5,000*l.* due to Frances and Frances-Dorothy Furnivall, the money unpaid lent by lord Cadogan; 8,135*l.* 8*s.* 1½*d.* due to Robert Orme and Harrington Hudson, as trustees acting under the marriage settlement of lady Elizabeth Townshend; 935*l.* 8*s.* 1½*d.* due to Ann dowager marchioness Townshend as personal representative of lord Charles-T.-P. Townshend; 8,135*l.* 8*s.* 1½*d.* due to lord John Townshend; 10,000*l.* due to Charles Greenwood; 758*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* due to Andrew-Berkley Drummond, Charles Drummond, and John Drummond, originally advanced by Tho.-W. Partington; and 7,000*l.* due to Thomas Willington, which had been lent by John Willington. John Smith and Francis-Williams Sanders were to hold such hereditaments as should remain unsold, in trust, for the marquis, his heirs, and assigns. And A.-B., C., and J., Drummond, then trustees, assigned over to Richard White all the premises comprised in the indentures of March, 1777, except those in the counties of Stafford and Warwick, to hold during the remainder of the term of 2,000 years, in trust, for John Smith and Francis-W. Sanders, to attend the inheritance.

George, second marquis Townshend married Charlotte, second daughter of Ellerker Mainwearing Ellerker, esq., of Risby, in Yorkshire; and coheirress of Roger her brother. By her, he had several children,—George-Ferrers, Charlotte-Barbara-Ferrers, Harriett-Ann-Ferrers, Elizabeth-Margaret-Ferrers, and Charles-Vere-Ferrers. He died upon the 28th of July, 1811. His will was made on the 19th day previous. After having given many

specific legacies, and bequeathed to Frances Warcup, spinster, his personal property at his mansion in Sloane-street, and at Richmond in Surrey, with all his lands and hereditaments at the latter place freed from encumbrances, he devised the rest of his personal property to lord John Townshend his brother, and Robert Blake, in trust, to be converted in money; which, after the payment of his debts and funeral expences, should be invested in the purchase of freehold or copyhold estates, to be applied as he ordered his real estates to be, except certain uses directed to be limited to his half-brother, lord James Townshend, for life, and then to the first and other sons of him successively in tail male. And the marquis devised to lord John Townshend and Robert Blake all his real estates not before disposed of, upon trust, that they, as soon as might be convenient, should, by sale or mortgage, raise so much money in aid of the personal property assigned to them as would suffice to pay his debts, legacies, and funeral and testamentary expences. The estates not disposed of they should hold in trust, during the life of lord Charles Townshend, in order to preserve them. They were to apply the rents,—to pay all taxes, rates, and other outgoings for the estates whilst lord Charles lived,—to keep in repair the mansion-houses at Raynham and Tamworth,—to pay the salaries of stewards and bailiffs,—and to pay, during the term of twenty-one years, an annuity of 4,000*l.* to lord Charles. They should invest the surplus of the rents, with the profits of the timber, upon government or real securities; and the dividends being added, they should allow the money to accumulate during the term. After the expiration of the twenty-one years, lord Charles Townshend should

receive the whole of the rents; and, after his decease, they should pass to his sons according to age, in tail male, with remainders over.

Very soon after the decease of the second marquis, serious disputes arose amongst the trustees of the estates and the other persons interested in them. Appeal to the high court of Chancery resulted. In one cause, lord John Townshend and Robert Blake were plaintiffs; and George third marquis Townshend, lord Charles Townshend, lady Harriett Townshend, lady Elizabeth Townshend, and lady Arabella-Ferrers Townshend, and Charles-Fox, John, and George-Osborne Townshend, infants, by their guardian, and lord James-Nugent-Boyle-Bernardo Townshend, were defendants. In the other cause, John Smith, Francis-Williams Sanders, lord Frederick Townshend, lady Maria-Honorata Townshend, the hon. William Blaquiére and lady Harriett his wife, and John Robins, were plaintiffs; and Edward-Miller Mundy, Frances-Dorothy Furnivall, Robert Orme, Harrington Hudson, lord John Townshend, Charles Greenwood, Andrew-Berkley Drummond, Charles Drummond, John Drummond, Thomas Willington, Richard White, Samuel Taylor, sir James Montgomery bart., Richard Dewing, Frances Gwyn, Anthony Gwyn, Gwyn Etheridge, William Stokes, Robert Blake, lord Charles V. F. Townshend, and Charles-Fox Townshend, John Townshend, and George-O. Townshend, by their guardian, Edward Ferrers and lady Harriett-Ann his wife, lady Elizabeth Townshend, lady Arabella Townshend, lord James-N.-B.-B. Townshend, Ann dowager marchioness Townshend, Frederick duke of Leeds, and George third marquis Townshend, were defendants. By a decree of the court pronounced in the two causes

on the 1st of February, 1814, it was declared that the trusts of the indentures of 1811 ought to be executed ; and it was decreed that the will of the late marquis should be established and the trusts of it effected.

Acting in compliance with these indentures, by agreement of the 11th of March ensuing, lord John Townshend and Robert Blake, with the consent of lord Charles Townshend, and in subjection to the sanction of the court of Chancery, agreed to sell to John Robins, for 94,700*l.*, including timber, the Castle of Tamworth and the honour of the Castle, and several manors, lands, and other hereditaments, and the furniture of the Castle and of the Moat-house, and all the other possessions of which the marquis had died seized in Tamworth, Bolehall, Wilnecote, Fazeley, Wigginton, Glascote, Bitterscote, Waverton, and Amington. And as the late marquis was indebted to Mr. Robins 26,000*l.* on mortgage, besides a considerable amount on simple contract, it was agreed that the purchaser should retain that sum, and pay the remainder in the name of the account-general of the court of Chancery to the credit of causes, on or before the 5th of April, 1815. On the 6th of August, it was ordered by the court that the trustees, by sale of the estates, should raise 122,700*l.* to liquidate all the debts, and that the contract for the sale of Tamworth-Castle and the possessions above-named should be carried into effect.

In August, 1816, it was found that the first encumbrances on the estates were the principal sums consequent upon the trust of 1790, amounting to 25,341*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; and the second, raised under the trusts of 1776 and 1777, to 42,758*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* By different orders of the court, these were soon paid ; so that, on the 4th of August,

1817, the parties to whom these sums had been due quitted all claims upon the Castle, honour, manors, lands, tithes, and other hereditaments situated in the counties of Warwick and Stafford, and all comprised in the indentures of 1777, to Richard White and his assigns during the residue of the 2,000 years, upon trust, subject to such charges, if any, mentioned in the indentures of 1811, for lord John Townshend and Robert Blake, to be by them disposed of from time to time, but in the mean time to attend the inheritance, in order to preserve the same from mesne charges and encumbrances, if such should exist.

Mr. Robins was put into possession of the Castle and estates contracted to be sold to him, and of the receipts of the rents, on the 5th of April, 1815; but many difficulties arose, so that the transfer could not be completed by the specified time. Upon his petition, an order of the court was, therefore, made, on the 20th of July, 1816, directing lord John Townshend and Robert Blake to convey to him certain lands and houses in the town and parish of Tamworth to the value of the debt of 26,000*l.*; freed from all encumbrances. To get rid of these, Mr. Robins, on the 26th of August ensuing, at the request of the trustees, paid to certain bankers in London 2,085*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* principal and interest due from the late marquis, who as security had given the title-deeds of some houses in Bolebridge-street and Church-street; and to John-Broadley Wilson, 3,949*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* for principal and interest in discharge of a mortgage for 3,500*l.* on the Bolehall estate. And on the 21st of January, 1819, Mr. Robins petitioned the court that with the hereditaments he had mentioned others might be assigned to him, the value of which altogether did

not exceed 39,684*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* This was the debt now due to him,—26,000*l.* on mortgage, with interest from the 22nd of September, 1810, amounting to 7,407*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, after the deduction of property-tax and 2,600*l.* already paid to him; 2,085*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* paid to the bankers, with interest from the 26th of August, 1816, amounting to 242*l.* 2*s.*; and 3,949*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* On the following day, an order was made consonant with the petition: and, by indentures of the 19th and 20th of February, lord J. Townshend and R. Blake conveyed to Mr. Robins and his trustee the specified hereditaments.

These hereditaments were as follows. The manor of Bolehall and Glascote; the capital messuage called Bole-hall, and several parcels of land belonging to them, and the Bow-mill, estimated to contain altogether 150*a.*, all which had formerly been the estate of Samuel Egerton, esq., afterwards of George viscount and first marquis Townshend; a messuage and lands contiguous of 14*a.* 3*r.* 24*p.*; closes called the Allports of 16*a.* 3*r.* 30*p.*; several closes formerly part of an open field called Further field, but long since enclosed; other lands taken out of an open field called Middle field; and others out of another open field called Merry-hill field; the Over and Nether pieces in a meadow called the Oxhays, containing together 2*a.* 16*p.*; a dole in a meadow named Broadmeath; Well-croft of 1*a.*; and two cottages with gardens;—all which together contained 82*a.* 2*r.* 23 ., and were, with Merry-hill close of 5*a.* 25*p.* and a piece of waste land adjoining, neither included in these indentures, formerly the estate of Isaac Hawkins Browne, and afterwards of the second marquis; seven closes called the Great and Little Hopleys, New Close, and Stone-pits, of 30*a.* 2*r.* 4., with barn, garden,

orchard, and rick-yard, belonging once to John Willington, afterwards to the late marquis; and the tithes of all these possessions,—which lay in the liberty of Bolehall and Glascote. Two pieces of the Castle-meadow, each containing 2*r.*; several closes lying together eastwards of Fazeley-bridge, containing 15*a.* 3*p.*; two pieces of land forming the south part of Great Park, and the whole of Top-close, containing together 16*a.* 37*p.*; all lying in the liberty of the Castle: two cottages fronting the Fazeley road, and three gardens and Cam's croft behind of 3*r.*, in the liberty of Fazeley; all which possessions in the Castle-liberty and in Fazeley were formerly parts of the estate of George viscount Townshend, commonly called lord Northampton's, or the Castle estate. A piece of land out of Spittle and Flax-hill fields of 41*a.* 2*r.* 31*p.*, and an old enclosure of 3*a.* 1*r.* 37*p.*, awarded to George viscount Townshend by the commissioners under the enclosure act of 1771; a messuage and garden in Wigginton; and another old enclosure; all in the liberty of Wigginton. Several buildings lying behind the houses on the south side of Market-street, and extending to, but exclusive of, the Castle-wall; a messuage on the same side; two messuages on the east side of the road leading to the Castle, with part of the Castle-court walled off; all in the Castle-liberty and borough: two messuages on the south side of George-street; another messuage, in the same part, with a garden down to the river; another at the corner of this street and Bolebridge-street; one adjoining in Bolebridge-street; and another messuage on the south side of Market-street: all which had formed part of lord Northampton's or the Castle estate. Part of the site of a messuage in George-street, by the Barley-market;

five messuages, four with gardens down to the Anker, in Bolebridge-street; a messuage, with a garden, on the opposite side of the same street; three messuages on the north side of Church-lane, with a garden or orchard; one, on the north side of Church-street, with a walled garden; one, with a garden, on the south side; one, with gardens, in Colehill, opposite the east end of George-street; one, in Gungate, with an orchard adjoining; two more, with a garden, in the same part; and a cottage and garden here; six messuages, and five cottages and one shop, with gardens, in Lichfield-street; and the moiety of a messuage, formerly divided into four dwelling-houses, in Silver-street, on the east side; and another messuage in the same street: all these had been purchased by George viscount and first marquis Townshend, from different persons. A messuage on the west side of Bolebridge-street; and six messuages, in the same part, with Tenter croft behind them, which had been converted into gardens.

There was still a considerable sum amounting principal and interest to 22,379*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* due to Mr. Robins from the estates of the late marquis Townshend. On the 22nd of March, 1820, it was ordered that he should complete the contract of March, 1814, and, on or before the first day of the ensuing Trinity-term, pay the residue of the 94,700*l.*, deducting off the remaining debt. On the 1st of June following, he accordingly paid 32,635*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* into the bank of England, in the name of the accountant-general of the court of Chancery, to the credit of the causes.

But the matter was not yet settled. In the last debt, Mr. Robins had included 1,527*l.* 13*s.* expended, at the desire of lord John Townshend and Robert Blake, and

also of lord Charles V. F. Townshend, in purchasing books, part of the late marquis's personal estate sold by Frances Warcup, on the 29th of May, 1812, and 751*l.* 6*s.* in purchasing furniture sold by her, on the 6th of July, which had belonged to Raynham, and 71*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* for repairing the latter, and sending all to Raynham, with 769*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* due on the first two sums as interest to the 29th of July, 1819. Exception was taken to the interest: and it was ordered that Mr. Robins should pay interest for the purchase-money, at four per cent, since he had been let into the possession of the estates, in 1815.

Instead of 769*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*, a sum of 289*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* was allowed for interest to the 5th of April, 1815. Mr. Robins had paid on the 6th of December, 1819, to Robert Blake, 999*l.* 10*s.* for interest on his purchase-money; on the 25th of December, to Joseph Vincent and Ann Fenton, 571*l.* 10*s.* in discharge of money lent to the late marquis on mortgage of two houses in Lichfield-street included in the contract; and on the 4th of July, 1820, 2,210*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* due to certain bankers in London from the estates of the marquis. Taking all these sums into account, there remained due from Mr. Robins, proper deductions being made, 251*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* and 13,987*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* These sums he settled on the 26th of January, 1821; but he was again charged interest on the 13,987*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, from the 16th of December, when the last account was made. The amount, 61*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*, he paid on the 14th of February following. The purchase of the Castle and estates was now effected. Accordingly, by indenture of the 28th of June, 1821, lord John Townshend and Robert Blake completed the contract of sale; and thus the Castle was, for the first time during

almost seven-hundred years, alienated from the family of its hereditary possessors.

The property now passed to Mr. Robins, was as follows. The Castle of Tamworth, with the buildings, yard, court-bath, plantation, and garden, containing altogether *3a. 2r. 16p.*: the honour and manor of the Castle: the manor of Stipershill: and all rights belonging to them. The Castle-inn facing the Holloway and Market-street, with buildings and yard extending to the Castle-wall. A piece of ground, with buildings, converted into a bowling-green and gardens, lying on the west side of Silver-street, containing altogether *1a. 1r. 37p.*, and formerly called Hill-croft. A dwelling-house in Market-street, adjoining the Castle-inn; two dwelling-houses on the south side of George-street, one formerly the Angel-inn, with gardens down to the Anker: these lay partly in the borough and partly in the Castle-liberty. In the Castle-liberty:—Seckington meadow of *8a. 3r. 28p.*: Castle-meadow of *12a. 3r. 14p.*: a plantation of *12p.*; an ozier-bed of *3r. 16p.*: Park meadow of *5a. 30p.*: parcels of land formerly constituting the Leawood-parks,¹—Lower park piece of *4a. 2r. 34p.*, Aqueduct piece of *5a. 35p.*, Lower park of *3a. 5p.*, Great park meadow of *18a. 1r.*, two pieces of *3r. 13p.* and *2a. 3r. 18p.* Lower park piece and Upper park piece of *2a. 5p.* and *1a. 3r. 33p.*, two closes of *2a. 3r. 19p.* and *3a. 28p.*, two closes called Upper park close and Lower park piece of *3a. 1r. 35p.* and *3a. 3r. 8p.*, Park close of *6a. 3p.*, Great and Little coal-pit closes of *6a. 3r. 22p.*, and *4a. 37p.*; arable land of *2a. 9p.*: two pieces of meadow called the Horse closes of

¹ The lands named the parks which lay within the liberty, once formed an extensive park belonging to the Castle. This remained in the time of Henry VIII., for Leland mentions his having passed it on the left, as he proceeded from Tamworth to Fazeley.

8a. 2r. 27p. and 1a. 10p.: parcels of land once forming Brick-kiln close,—a piece of 1r. 13p., another of 4a. 2r. 23p., and a third of 3a. 1r. 27p.: a barn with yards and meadow called the Barn-piece of 32p. and 10a. 3r. 4p.: part of the Bull's head inn and garden of 3p.: lands once constituting Nearer Priestley fields, being situated south of the Watling-street,—a cottage and piece of land of 20p., Aldridge's piece and a hovel and yard of 3a. 2r. 27p. and 10p., Great Brick-kiln close of 4a. 2r. 13p., the Five acres of 4a. 2r. 39p.: Hilly piece, once part of the Further and Nearer Priestley fields, of 5a. 2p.: Snell's orchard of 9a. 1r. 30p.: waste land adjoining the Tame of 1r. 16p.: Fazeley-bridge close of 1a. 8p.; Nether Thistly field of 7a. 20p.: nine pieces of meadow formerly part of Further and Nearer Priestley fields,—Brick-kiln close of 2a. 2r. 35p., Further Thistly field of 6a. 16p., the Little meadow of 2a. 3r. 7p., Hilly piece of 3a. 3r. 5p., Lower Barn close north of 4a. 1r. 9p., Lower Barn close south of 3a. 3r. 20p., Upper Barn close south of 3a. 1r. 28p., Upper Barn close north and a newly erected messuage, with a barn, and yard of 2a. 2r. 10p. and 1r. 4p., Coal-pit close of 4a. 2r. 26p.,—on these all the moduses or annual payments in lieu of tithes were to be charged to which all the lands in the Castle liberty had been subject, amounting to 1l. 6s. 6d., of which 12s. 6d. was paid to the prebend of Amington, 4s. to that of Coton, and the rest in equal sums to the prebends of Wilnecote, Syerscote, and Wigginton: several closes formerly the two southernmost of those four called the Further Priestley fields,—a plantation of 1r. 21p., arable land of 11a. 5p., pasture-ground of 7a. 3r. 19p., two plantations of 9p. and 2r. 25p., a paddock of 36p., and two gardens of 3r. 34p.

and 12*p.*; a plantation of 2*a.* 26*p.*; all lying near Dosthill-house. The Castle-mills heretofore described as three Corn-mills and one fulling-mill under one roof, the former with three water wheels, the latter with one wheel working two pair of fullers for fulling cloth, and another wheel for calendering and printing cotton-cloths, all now used exclusively as corn-mills; with land and premises of 1*r.* 14*p.*, of which 19*p.* comprising the mill-house and part of the mill lay in the liberty of Fazeley, the rest in that of the Castle; and land called the mill-dam, with flood-gates, of 1*a.* 2*r.* 10*p.* In the liberty of Fazeley:—the site where two mills under one roof, called the Lady-mills, anciently stood on the bank of the Tame, at a place named Endall ford, with the bays and banks to the old mouth, and the water and fishery of the old mouth as descending to Lady-bridge, and the fishery from Lady-bridge to Dunstall,—which mills and fishery were subject to an annual fee-farm rent of 10*l.* paid to the lord of the manor of Drayton-Basset, but out of which the land-tax should be deducted: Mill meadow of 12*a.* 11*p.*, Mill holme of 7*a.* 3*r.* 7*p.*, waste ground of 1*r.*, East Endall close and a piece of garden of 3*r.* 8*p.* and 12*p.*, a portion of Endall closes now converted into part of a wash-wheel cut of 1*r.* 39*p.*, West Endall close and garden of 3*r.* 11*p.* and 15*p.*, Nether close of 1*a.* 2*r.* 8*p.*, and piece of waste ground of 1*r.* 20*p.*,—all appurtenant to the Lady-mills and fisheries: Bitterscote close of 3*a.* 4*p.*; three parts of Thatch-holme meadow of 1*a.* 15*p.*, 27*p.*, and 35*p.* Several closes, including a dwelling-house and gardens, of 13*a.* 17*p.*, with the tithes, situated in the lordship of Amington, and called the Ashlands. Royalty close of 2*r.* 4*p.*, in Drayton-

Basset. A croft of 1*a.* in Wareton or Waverton. The Castle and all the other hereditaments before described, except Fazeley-bridge close, had formed lord Northampton's or the ancient family estate. In the borough of Tamworth,—the Moat-house, and its appurtenances, with two cottages, and a barn partly converted into a surgery and tenement; two dwelling-houses, with gardens, in Bolebridge-street; two messuages and a malt-house, two dwelling-houses and four messuages, with gardens, in Church-street; one dwelling-house, in College-lane; another with gardens, in George-street; five dwellings with gardens, and a messuage, in Lichfield-street; three messuages with two shops and gardens, and four dwelling-houses, in Market-Street; garden ground of 1*a.* 1*r.* 39*p.* east of Ludgate-lane: three enclosures called the Bradfords of 3*a.* 1*r.* 15*p.*, 4*a.* 1*r.* 12*p.*, and 1*a.* 2*r.* 32*p.*; and three enclosures called Broad-meadow of 3*a.* 38*p.*, 1*a.* 2*r.* 39*p.*, and 1*a.* 1*r.* 38*p.*; —all tithe free and situated partly in the borough and partly in the lordship of Wigginton: the Perrycrofts, in the lordship of Bolehall, with a house and croft, two gardens, and four crofts of 1*a.* 2*r.* 18*p.*, 1*r.* 38*p.*, 38*p.*, 2*a.* 19*p.*, 3*a.* 2*r.* 35*p.*, 2*a.* 20*p.*, and 3*a.* 1*r.* 20*p.*: all which had been purchased by George viscount and first marquis Townshend. All the tithes and ecclesiastical payments whatsoever, hitherto due to the prebend of Amington, for the lands in Amington and Bolehall. In the borough:—Garden-field or Fenton's garden of 7*a.* 1*p.*, near the Bradfords, exonerated from land-tax and tithes; a dwelling-house, with garden, on the south side of Church-street; two houses built on the site of the Bowling-green house, and four others, with a garden of 2*a.*, formerly a bowling-green and garden,

on the north side of Lichfield-street; an ancient messuage in Lichfield-street, converted into four distinct dwellings, with gardens, and another messuage and garden; five dwellings on the Lichfield-road, and Barn-close and two small gardens of 2*a.* 3*r.* 25*p.*; all free from tithes and land-tax. And thirteen pews in different parts of the Church.

Mr. Robins, who thus acquired this extensive property, was an eminent auctioneer in London. Some parts of the estate he soon disposed of, but the greater portion he retained until his decease in 1831. By his will, he bequeathed all his property to his children for life, and then to his grand-children. But between them some dispute arose, which ended in a suit in the high court of Chancery. After some time, it was ordered by a decree of the court, that the Castle should be disposed of, with all the hereditaments in and around Tamworth. The property was, therefore, divided into one-hundred lots, and put up to public auction, on the 10th, 11th, and 12th days of October, 1833.¹

Most of the lands were soon sold to numerous persons, and the estate thus broken up; but the Castle did not find an immediate purchaser. At length, it was bought by the trustees of lord Charles Vere Ferrers Townshend: and it thus once more returned into the family of its hereditary possessors.

¹ See Appendix, Note 27.

THE CASTLE:

CONTINUED.

DESCRIPTION.

There are found very scanty vestiges of the original Castle. The greater part of the edifice has long disappeared, and little more remains than the mound and its superencumbent donjon. From the few notices of the ancient building which exist, it appears to have exhibited the arrangements generally adopted by the Normans. It had its keep, its walls of the enceinte, its base-court, its mound and donjon, and its ditch.

The principal part of the Castle lay eastward of the mound towards the Market-place. The entrance was situated in the lane now leading into the grounds. The Normans rarely constructed regular gate-houses; but they erected two towers near each other, and formed a gateway between them. Such would seem to have been the case here. The foundations of one of the round towers remained exposed at the close of the last century. The keep appears to have formed a part of the circuit of the walls on the east side: the site is taken up, partly by the Castle-garden, and partly by the yards and out-buildings of adjacent houses. All these parts gradually fell into decay during the fifteenth century, so that, when Leland visited this place, they had totally fallen into ruins. "The Base Court," he says, "and great Ward of the Castle is cleane decayed,

and the Wall fallen downe, and therein be now but Houses of Office of noe notable Buildinge.”¹

Of the walls of the enceinte, very little can be traced. There is a very massive curtain-wall, which passes from near the spot where the tower of the entrance once stood, to the donjon upon the summit of the mound. It has, however, been very much lowered, so that the summit forms a path, protected by modern side-walls, to the present Castle: this ascent is considerably less steep than the mound itself, as the site of the ancient keep is placed on a much higher level than the base of the mound. This wall presents a very beautiful specimen of herring-bone masonry. In it is occasionally found the red tile.² This style of architecture was occasionally used by the Romans, and afterwards by the Normans; but it was most generally adopted by the Anglo-Saxons. It is a point not agreed on, whether this wall at Tamworth should be referred to the Saxons or Normans: equally high names might be mentioned on either side of the question. The mound is similar to those of both these people; but history refers its formation to the former: and the wall must be as old at least, as it is most probably founded so deep as the mound is artificial; because the newly-placed earth would not possess the solidity,—at least for many ages,—which would be required to support the ponderous masonry.³

The south side, facing the rivers, was, in all likelihood, protected by a wall, with a bank of earth behind it affording an easy access to the top. From this, a

¹ *Itin.*, vol. IV. fol. 189. b.

² An engraving of this masonry is given in the “Glossary of Architecture”.

³ On the north side, it had become so unsafe, that some years ago it was found necessary to support it by massive stone buttresses.

west wall very probably ran to join the donjon. Another surrounding the mound, and continuous into the north side, would complete the circuit of the Castle. and enclose a quadrilateral area of ground a little more than two acres in extent.

The base-court contained, as was always the case, the garrison-lodgings and offices.

The mound is of considerable height; and is between forty and forty-five yards in diameter at the top. It is not wholly artificial, for its elevation was increased by excavating a fosse partially around its base, through a natural elevation of the ground. This is particularly evident on the east and west sides. On the north, the trench formed a part of the Castle-ditch. The only remnant of the ancient donjon is the base of the present tower, which is of very great thickness, and built of rubble-stone. It is probably founded as deep as the herring-bone wall: and, if examined, might be found to contain subterranean chambers. The present Castle has been erected upon the ancient site; yet its foundations, in some parts, are remarkably shallow. The mound was crowned by a light multangular shell of wall for greater defence, the remains of which are now seen, although the greater part has been modernized. Leland says, "The Dungeon Hill yet standith, and a great round Tower of Stone, wherein Mr. Ferrers dwelleth, and now repaireth it."

A ditch surrounded the Castle on three sides, whilst the rivers on the south completed the defence. It appears always to have been a dry ditch: and, whilst the edifice was falling to decay, it was cultivated as gardens. On the 12th of March, 1459-60, Thomas Ferrers,

esq., granted to Thomas Crofha', weaver, and Juliana his wife, on a lease of forty-three years from the 19th of May ensuing, a piece of land in the Castle-ditch, seventy-two feet long, and extending in breadth from the land of the lord king to the Castle-wall. For this was to be paid the sum of 18*d.* a year, at the usual term of the Castle-courts. And Thomas and Juliana, their heirs and assigns, were to keep in repair all the buildings erected or to be erected on the land.¹

The full breadth of the ditch, has evidently been about twenty feet. It has become gradually filled up; and the greater part is now built upon. From the north-west angle to the bank of the Tame, scarcely a trace remains, although but few buildings stand upon it. On the east side, it is much more apparent, from the bank of the Anker until its approach towards the top of George-street, where houses begin to obstruct its course. Little more than ancient records can demonstrate its course parallel with Market-street.

The present Castle is situated entirely upon the donjon-mound. Down to the reign of Charles II., it constituted the chief residence of its owners, who, from time to time, introduced alterations and improvements. Humphry Ferrers, in Elizabeth's time, resided alternately here and at Walton-hall, in Derbyshire. Sir John afterwards rebuilt a considerable part: towards the end of his life, he retired entirely to Walton, and gave up this residence to his son and heir, sir Humphry. John Ferrers, esq., dwelt at Walton whilst this place was garrisoned by troops in the civil war; but afterwards he returned, and continued mostly here until the close of his life. Whilst the Castle was held by the Shirleys

¹ Indenture, 36 H. VI.

and Comptons, it was totally neglected; and remained deserted for nearly a century. Internally it fell into a state of great delapidation; but it was maintained in external repair. The day of desolation was at length consummated, by its conversion into a manufactory. Mr. Peel took it for part of his works. The great hall was turned into a smith's shop. Yet the only permanent damage which the building sustained, was confined to the destruction of the old floor of the hall, and the substitution of a modern one. About 1792, Mr. Peel abandoned the place. The late marquis Townshend, when he was earl of Leicester, contemplated its conversion into his family residence. With this design, he had it carefully surveyed; but, on account of the decayed state of the greater part, and the necessarily heavy expences which would be incurred by the restoration, he was obliged to abandon the scheme for some time. After he had succeeded to the titles and estates of his family, in 1807, he commenced the most extensive alterations and repairs. He erected the lodge at the entrance into the grounds from the lower end of Lady-bridge bank. The gardens were newly laid out, and the mound was planted. Parts of the interior of the building were re-erected, the ancient high-peaked roofs removed, and others of a modern character put up. Had this nobleman lived longer in possession of the edifice, he would have rendered it a very fine residence.¹

¹ The marquis Townshend was exceedingly fond of this Castle. He used to declare that he was never so proud as when he stood within the gates. Indeed, the titles which accompanied it into his family were many and very illustrious. One time, he accompanied the late prince of Wales on a visit to Warwick-castle. He took the opportunity of stating to the prince how delighted he should be to receive a visit from his royal highness in his Castle of Tamworth. Perchance, he urged the subject in a manner which was not perfectly agreeable. The prince turned round and exclaimed hastily, "D—n your Castle." The marquis never renewed the invitation, or forgot the indignity offered to himself. He used to relate the anecdote with much

The death of the marquis, in 1811, stopped the progress of the repairs. The Castle remained empty for some years; but at length it was fitted up in an excellent manner, by Mr. Robins, as a residence for his son-in-law, Thomas Bramall, esq.¹ It continued to be inhabited by this gentleman, until the property was sold, by a decree of the court of Chancery. After it had come into the hands of the trustees of lord Charles Townshend, it continued to be unoccupied. But, in 1844, it was taken by Miss Wolferstan, late of Elmore Court, near Gloucester, as her residence. This lady has caused it to be thoroughly repaired at great cost, and furnished in a style of splendour suitable to the character of the building, and to its dignity in olden times.

The present Castle is of an oval or rather of a multangular form. The outer walls are very massive, although in the greater part of them are not presented the features of antiquity. They are entirely built of stone, embattled at the top, and, where the galleries run, are furnished with loop-holes. The only access to the interior of the building lies on the east side, and is by a small, pointed, ancient doorway passing under the warder's house into the court-yard. The grooves for the portcullis may be still seen. The court-yard is small,

bitterness, not unmingled with surprise that such an occurrence could possibly have taken place.

The malediction of such a person as the late prince of Wales,—we allude to him strictly in his private capacity,—has taken its full effect, in the manner that might be justly expected. Ever since the memorable period, the Castle has been gradually emerging from the degradation which it had long suffered, and rising from the ruins to which neglect and scorn had reduced it.

1 Mr. Robins built the lodge which stands close to the site of the old tower near the lane leading from the Market-place. During its erection, an ancient staircase beneath the surface of the ground was opened. The builder had neither the curiosity to examine were it led to, or the courtesy to inform any person who would have explored it, of his discovery; but he had it immediately closed over.

A small portion of a cellar attached to an adjacent house, is formed of an ancient subterranean passage.

and is bounded on the east by the warder's house and the tower, on the south by the external wall, and on



the west and north by the principal portion of the edifice.

A great part of the warder's house has been rebuilt of brick. Internally there are some tolerably good rooms, but none of these lie on the ground-floor. They appear to have been fitted up in the time of the Tudors, if we may judge from the style of one of the chimney-pieces, which is handsomely carved. The windows facing the court-yard exhibit an ordinary character; those facing the east, which are divided into several lights, having been rebuilt in modern times.

Adjoining the warder's house is the tower, a large square structure. At the base, the walls are very thick, and are built of rubble-stone, according to the

Anglo-Saxon and Norman modes; above they are much thinner, and formed of hewn stone, indicating that the greater part of the tower has been re-erected. A passage from a small modern wash-house communicates with a dismal room, thirteen feet square, and unprovided with any fire-place or window, which is traditionally called "the dungeon,"—a purpose for which it was very probably destined. Above this, are some staircases connected with the main building; and, at the top, a large lumber-room, with windows at the sides, most of which have been entirely bricked up. The view from the leads is very fine, but it is not so extensive as that from the tower of the Church.

On the north wall of the court-yard, are seen some chimney-pieces, where the late marquis Townshend began to erect additional rooms.

In the south wall, stands a doorway leading by a flight of steps into a small recess, lighted by a loop-hole from without. Thence the passage appears to have been continued around the walls, whilst a branch turned to the left. But these have been bricked up, doubtless at the time when the great rooms of the Castle were rebuilt. At the top of this wall, a gallery runs from the warder's house to the main buildings.

The entrance into the principal part of the edifice is placed opposite that into the court-yard from the exterior. It is ornamented with Corinthian pillars, and bears above, carved in stone, the arms of Ferrers; but the whole is very much mutilated and decayed. The porch is provided with stone seats. All the south part, including the porch and the two adjacent kitchens with the rooms above, was erected in the reign of James I. It is built of brick, with stone dressings.

The kitchens have been completely modernized internally. Above them are two very fine rooms, which formed the principal apartments of the Castle. They are wainscotted with dark stained oak, carved and ornamented in a mixture of the Roman and Grecian styles. Along the cornice of the largest, around three sides, are placed numerous panels containing the arms of the Ferrers' family, of the lords of the Castle down to the late marquis Townshend when he was earl of Leicester, of Ferrers of Chartley to the Comptons, and those of Ferrers of Baddesley-Clinton to the time of James I., impaling the matches of these families. Under each of the arms, is an inscription stating the particular marriage.¹ In the smaller room, are six similar panels, showing principally the matches of the sisters of sir John. These were put up when the rooms were built by sir John Ferrers, and continued at subsequent times. As they possess antiquarian value, we give the whole of them.²

1. On a wreath Or and Gu., an unicorn Erm., armed, maned, and queveed of the first. On each side, a horse-shoe Sa.

HERE FOLOWETH THE COATES OF ARMES AV'TIENTLY BOE'E
IN Y^E NA'E OF FERRERS, WITH AN ABSTRACT OF SUCH HOWSES
& AV'TIE'T FAMILIES AS HAVE SINCE THE CO'VEST BEENE
LYNIALLY DISCE'DED FRO' HENRY DE FERRIERS, LORD OF
FERRIERS IN NORMA'DY, WHO CA'E IN TO ENG' WITH WIL'
Y^E CO'QVERO', & TOOKH HIS FIRST DENONMIATION FRO' THE
SAID TOWNE CALLED FERRIES, LYING IN Y^E DYKEDOME OF
NORMANDIE.

2. Arg., three horse-shoes Sa.

¹ To these inscriptions, we have occasionally referred as authorities, in the history of the Castle.

² In some of the earlier panels a few errors will be observed.

THE FORSAID HEN' L' FER' HAD GEVE' HI' Y^e HO'NOR OF
TVTEVRY BY W' CO'Q:.

3. Arg., six horse-shoes Sa., 3, 2, and 1: impaling
Sa., three bars vairy Arg. and Gu.

ROBERT 1. E: FER: MA' SIBELL D' OF W: L: BRYSE OF BE'BER
KNAPE & GOWER.

4. Vairy Or and Gu., a border Arg., charged with
eight horse-shoes Sa.: impaling quarterly, Gu, and vairy
Or and Sa.; over all a lion rampant Arg., armed and
langued Gu.

W: ERLE FER: L: OF TVTEVRY MA' MARGARET D' & HEIR TO
W: PEVEREL.

5. Vairy Or and Gu.:¹ impaling Sa., three garbs Or.

W' FER: FIRST E: OF DERBY MA' AGNIS SISTER & COHEI'E TO
RA' 3. E: OF CHESTER.

6. Ferrers: impaling Gu., seven mascles conjoined
3, 3, and 1, Or.

W' FER: 2. E: OF DERBY MA: MARGARET DA: & HEI' OF
ROGER QVINCY E: OF WIN'.

7. Ferrers: impaling Gu., semee of billets Or, a
fess Arg.

W' L: FER: OF GROBY MA' ELENOR DA' OF MATHEW L:
LOVAI' OF STANES.

8. Ferrers: impaling Sa., a lion rampant Arg.

W' 2 L: FER' OF GROBY MA' ELIZ' DA' TO IOHN L: SEGRAVE
OF CALEDO'.

9. Ferrers: impaling Or, a fret Gu.

HENRY 3 L. FER' OF GROBY MA' ISSABELL DA' OF THEOBALD
LORD VE'DON.

10. Ferrers: impaling Sa., a cross engrailed Or.

W' 4 L: FER' OF GROBY MA' MARGA' DA' OF W' VFFORD OF
SVFFOLKE.

¹ These are the usual arms of Ferrers, and must be understood whenever we
mention the name merely.

11. Ferrers: impaling barry of six Or and Az, a bend Gu.

HENRY 5 L: FER' OF GROOBY ESPOV, IANE DA': TO LVCAS
LORD POYNI'GES.

12. Ferrers: impaling chequy Or and Sa., a fess Gu.

W' 6 L: FER' OF GROOBY MARRIED PHILIP DA' TO ROGER L:
CLIFFO'DE.

13. Ferrers: impaling Frevile.

S' THO'AS FER: OF TA'WORTH MA' ELIZ' DA: & COHEIR TO S'
BALDWI' FENVILL.

14. Ferrers: impaling Arg., a manche Sa.

S' THO: FER' OF TAMWORTH MAR: ANN DA' TO WILLIA' L:
HASTINGES.

15. Ferrers: impaling Arg., on a bend Sa. three
bucks' heads cabossed Or; a crescent Gu. for a difference.

S' IOHN FER'ERS OF TAM: MA' MAYDE DA' TO S' IOHN STA'LEY
OF ELFORDE.

16. Ferrers: impaling Arg., a lion rampant within
a border engrailed Sa.

S' IOHN FER: OF TAM' MA: DOROTHIE DA' TO WIL: HARPER
OF RVSHALL.

17. Ferrers: impaling Sa., three pickaxes Arg.

S' HUMFREY FER: OF TAM' MAE' MARGARET DA' TO THO'
PIGOT SA: AT LAWE.

18. Ferrers: impaling Arg., three cocks Gu., armed
ppr.

IOHN FER' OF TAM: ESQ' ESPOVED BARBARA DA' TO
FRAY'CIS COCKIN.

19. Ferrers: impaling Arg., on a bend Gu., three
mulletts Or.

S' HV'FREY FER: OF TAMWORTH MAR' AN' DA' TO S' HV'FREY
BRADENE.

20. Ferrers: impaling paly of six Or and Gu., over
all a bend of the first.

S' HUFREY FER : MA' TO HIS 2 WIFE ELIZ' DA : TO S' RAVFE
LO'GE FORDE OF LO'.

21. Ferrers: impaling Sa., a bend of lozenges between two plain cotises Arg.

S' IOHN FER : OF TAM' MA' DOROTHIE DA' TO S : IOHN
PVCKERI'G L : KEMPER.

22. Ferrers, with a label of three points Gu. : impaling party per chevron Sa. and Arg., in chief three mullets Or, and in base three garbs Gu.

HUMF'Y FER', SON & HER OF S' IOHN, MA' ANNE D' OF S' IOHN
PACKINGTON, BAR^t : SHE AFTERW^{ds} MARRIED PHIL' EARLE OF
CHESTERFIELD.

23. Ferrers: impaling Arg., on a bend Sa., three mascles of the first.

IOHN FERRERS OF TAMWORTH SON & HER MARRIED ANNE
DAUGHTER & COHER OF S' DUDLEY CARLETON, K^t. HE DIED
MDCLXXX.

24. Ferrers: impaling Az., a bend engrailed between six martlets Or.

S' HUMFREY FERRERS OF TAMWORTH K^t, SON & HER, DIED
BEFORE HIS FATHER : HE MARRIED ELIZ. DAVG' OF GERVASE
PIGOTT OF THURMPTON, IN COM : NOTTINGHAM, ESQ^r.

25. Paly of six Or and Az, a canton Ermine and label of three points Gu. : impaling quarterly, 1st Ferrers, 2nd Ferrers of Groby,¹ 3rd Frevile, 4th vairy Arg. and Az., a fess Gu. fretty Or.—Marmyon.

ANNE, ONLY DAVG' & HER OF S' HUMFREY FERRERS, MARRIED
ROB^t SHIRLEY, ELDEST SON & HER OF ROB^t EARL
FERRERS.

26. Quarterly, 1st and 4th Sa., a lion passant guardant Or between three helmets Ar.—Compton; 2nd and 3rd Arg., within a border Az. charged with eight bezants, a chevron Sa. : an escutcheon of pretence,

¹ The same arms as those of Quinci, earl of Winchester.

quarterly, 1st paly of six Or and Az., a canton Ermine—Shirley, 2nd Ferrers, 3rd Ferrers of Groby, 4th France and England quarterly in a border Arg.—Thomas of Woodstock. Impaling arms similar to the escutcheon of pretence.

ELIZ., ONLY DAUGHTER & HEIR OF ROBERT SHIRLEY & ANNE FERRERS,
MARRIED JAMES COMPTON, FIFTH EARL OF NORTHAMPTON.

27. Quarterly, 1st and 4th Az., a chevron Ermine, between three escallop-shells Arg.—Townshend; 2nd and 3rd quarterly Gu. and Or, in the first quarter a mullet of the second—Vere. An escutcheon of pretence of six quarterings, 1st Compton; 2nd Thomas of Woodstock; 3rd Shirley; 4th Devereux; 5th Ferrers; 6th Compton.

GEORGE, VISCOUNT TOWNSHEND, CREATED MARQUIS TOWNSHEND 27th OCTOBER, 1787, BECAME LORD OF THIS CASTLE IN RIGHT OF HIS WIFE, CHARLOTTE BARONESS DE FERRERS, BOURCHIER, LOVAINE, BASSET, & COMPTON, ONLY DAUGHTER & HEIR OF JAMES EARL OF NORTHAMPTON & ELIZABETH BARONESS DE FERRERS, &c.

28. Twenty-four principal quarterings. 1st Townshend: 2nd Vere: 3rd Compton: 4th Shirley: 5th Basset of Drayton: 6th Az., a lion rampant between eight cross-crosslets Or: 7th Devereux: 8th Ferrers: 9th Arg., five horse-shoes Sa: 10th Bouchier: 11th Lovaine of Staines: 12th Or, a lion rampant Az.: 13th Thomas of Woodstock: 14th Bohun: 15th Ferrers of Groby: 16th Gu., a cinquefoil Ermine: 17th Az., a lion rampant Arg: 18th Or, three piles Gu.: 19th Scotland: 20th Az., a cross flory and five martlets Or: 21st Frevile: 22nd Marmyon: 23rd bendy of six Or and Az.: 24th Arg., a saltire engrailed Az. An escutcheon of pretence quarterly, 1st quarterly 1st and 4th Vert, a fret Arg.

and chief Gu.; 2nd and 3rd Arg., two bars Gu.: 2nd Ralph earl of Chester: 3rd Az., a wolf's head erased Arg., langued Gu.: 4th Arg., an eagle displayed Sa.

GEORGE TOWNSHEND, EARL OF LEICESTER, BARON DE FERRERS, BOURCHIER, LOVAINE, BASSET, & COMPTON, IN THE RIGHT OF HIS MOTHER, LORD OF THIS CASTLE, MARRIED CHARLOTTE 2^d SISTER & COH^r OF ROGER MAINWARING ELLERKER, OF RISBY, CO. EBOR.

29. Vairy Or and Gu., a canton Ermine—Ferrers of Baddesley-Clinton: impaling Sa., on a chevron Arg., three slips of broom ppr.

S^r EDWARD FERRERS MA' CO'STA'CE DA' & HEIR OF NICHOLAS BROOME.

30. Ferrers of Baddesley: impaling Arg., a saltire Gu., between four eagles displayed Sa., armed Gu.

HENRY FERRERS OF BADDESLEY MA' KATHRINE DA: OF S: IO: HA'PDEN.

31. Ferrers of Baddesley: impaling Gu., a saltire Arg., between twelve crosses crosslet Or.

EDWARDE FER': OF BADESLEY ESQ': MA' BRIDGET DA': OF WIL' L: WINDZOR.

32. Ferrers of Baddesley: impaling Or, three hawks ppr., armed and membered Gu., in a border charged with twelve bezants.

HENRY FER: OF BADESLEY ESQ' MA' IANE DA: & HEIR OF HENRY WHITE.

33. Ferrers: impaling Az., a bend Arg. cotized Or, between six lions rampant of the last.

ROBERT FER' E: OF DERBY ESPOSED HELEANOR: DA' OF HVM' BORVN.

34. Ferrers: impaling Gu., a lion rampant Or, with a label of three points Gu.

IOHN L: FERRERS OF CHARTLEY MA' AVICE DA: & HEIRE OF
BO' MYCEG'OS.

35. Ferrers: impaling—.

ROBERT L: FERRERS OF CHARTLEY.

36. Ferrers: impaling Or, a chevron Gu.

IOHN L: FERRERS OF CHARTLEY ESF' ELIZA: DA: TO RAPE
HARLE STAFF'.

37. Ferrers: impaling quarterly, Arg. and Gu., in
the 2nd and 3rd quarters a fret Or; over all a bend Sa.

ROBERT . L: FERRERS OF CHARTLEY MA' MARGA: DA: TO ED'
L: SPENCER.

38. Ferrers: impaling Gu., three roaches naiant Arg.

EDMV'D . L: FERRERS OF CHARTLEY MA' ELANOR DA' TO
S' THO. DE LA ROCH.

39. Ferrers: impaling—.

WILL' L: FERRERS OF CHARTLEY MA' ELIZ: DA' TO S' ADAM
BELKNAP.

40. Arg., a fess Gu., and in chief three torteaux:
impaling Ferrers.

S' WA' DEVORAX, L: FER' IN RIGHT OF AGNIS HIS WIFE, DA'
& HEI' OF W: L: FER:

41. Devereux: impaling Arg., a cross engrailed
Gu. between four water-bougets Sa.

S' IOHN DEVEREVX L: FER' OF CHART' M' CICELY HEIRE TO
HE' BOVECHE' E' OF ES'.

42. Devereux: impaling Barry of six Arg. and Az.,
in chief three torteaux, a label of three points.

S' WALTER DEVEREVX VISCOP'T HEREFORD MA' MARY DA' TO
THO' GRAY.

43. Devereux: impaling Hastings.

S' RICHARD DEVEREVX MA' DORO' DA' TO GEORGE HASTI'GS,
E: OF HV'TI'GDO'.

44. Devereux: impaling Az., crusily of crosslets, a
cross moline voided Or.

WALTER E : OF ESSEX L : FER' OF CHAR : MA' LETICE DA' TO
SIR FRAY' CIS KNOYLES.

45. Devereux: impaling paly of six Arg. and Sa., a fess Gu.

ROBERT E : OF ESSEX L : FER' OF CHAR' ESP : FRAY' CIS DA' TO
S' FRAY : WALSI' GHA'.

46. Shirley: impaling arms of six quarterings, 1st, Devereux; 2nd Ferrers; 3rd Bouchier; 4th Lovaine of Staines; 5th Thomas of Woodstock; and 6th Bohun.

LADY DOROTHY DEVEREUX, 2^d DAUG^r & COHER OF ROBT E : OF
ESSEX, MARRIED S^r HENRY SHIRLEY OF STAVNTON HAROLD, IN
COM : LEICESTER, BARONET.

47. Shirley: impaling Ermine, on a chief Arg., three torteaux.

S^r ROBT SHIRLEY OF STAUNTON, SON & HEIR OF S^r HENRY,
MARRIED KATHERINE DAUG^r OF HUMPHRY OKEOVER, OF OKE-
OVER, IN COM. STAFFORD, ESQ^r. HE DIED MDCLVI.

48. Six quarterings, 1st Shirley; 2nd Basset of Drayton; 3rd Devereux; 4th Ferrers; 5th Bouchier; 6th Thomas of Woodstock: impaling Arg., two bars and in chief three mullets Gu.

S^r ROBT, ONLY SURVIV'G SON & HER, WAS SUM'ON'D TO PARL^t
AS L^d FERRS OF CHARTLEY &C. MDCLXXVII, CREATED EARL
FER^s & VISC^t TAMWORTH MDCCXI, MAR^d ELIZ : D^r & HER OF
LAURENCE WASHINGTON. D'D 1717.

49. Shirley: impaling quarterly, 1st Ferrers; 2nd Ferrers of Groby; 3rd Frevile; 4th Marmyon.

ROBT SHIRLEY, ELDEST SON & HER OF ROBT LORD FERR^s MAR^d
ANNE ONLY DAUG^r & HER OF HUMPHRY FERR^s OF TAMWORTH.
D'D BEFORE HIS FATHER, 1698.

50. Arms similar to those in the 26th panel.

ELIZ', ONLY DAUG^r & HER OF ROBT SHIRLEY, SUCCEEDED HER
GRANDFA^r IN THE BARONY OF FERRERS OF CHARTLEY &C. :
MARRIED JAMES COMPTON FIFTH EARL OF NORTHAMPTON.

51. Quarterly, 1st Compton; 2nd and 3rd quarterly,

1st Shirley, 2nd Ferrers, 3rd Ferrers of Groby, 4th Thomas of Woodstock; 4th Arg., in a border Az. charged with eight bezants, a chevron Sa.

JAMES LORD COMPTON.

LADY IANE COMPTON.

LADY ANNE COMPTON.

LADY CHARLOTTE COMPTON.

52. Devereux: impaling Gu., a bend between six cross crosslets fitché Arg.

ROBERT E: OF ESSEX L: FER: OF CHA' MA: FRAY' CIS DA: TO
Y^e E: OF SUFFOLKE, WHO DIED WITHOUT ISSUE.

Over the chimney-piece are three panels, each containing three escutcheon pendent from a rose-tree ppr.

53. No. 1. Or, three piles Gu.—David earl of Angus: impaling the earl of Chester as in the 5th panel.

No. 2. Or, a saltire and chief Gu.,—Bruce: impaling David earl of Angus.

No. 3. Sa., a lion rampant Arg., crowned with an earl's coronet,—Alan earl of Galloway: impaling David earl of Angus.

DAVID EARLE OF ANGVISHE & HUNTINGDON, GRAYND CHILDE
OF DAVID KINGE OF SCOTES, HAD YSSVE BY MAYDE SISTER
AND COHEIRE TO RANDOLPHE THE 3: EARLE OF CHESTER,
ISSABELL, & MARGARET: ISSABELL MA' TO ROBERT LORDE
BRVSE, AND MARGARET ESPOVSED ALEN EARLE OF GALOWAY.

54. No. 1. Bruce: impaling David earl of Angus.

No. 2. Or, a fess chequy Arg. and Sa.,—Stewart: impaling Bruce.

No. 3. Scotland.

THE SAID ROBERT LORDE BRVSE AND IANE ISSABELL HIS
WYFE HAD ISSVE ROBERT FATHER OF ROBERT BRVSE KINGE
OF SCOTES; WHICH KINGE HAD YSSVE MARION THAT ESPOVSED
WALTER STEWARD, THE PATERNALL PROGENITOR OF ROBERT

BRVSE; KINGE OF SCOTS, FROM WHOM DISCENDITH K^S IAMES
OVR SOVERIGNE.

55. No. 1. Alan earl of Galloway: impaling David
earl of Angus.

No. 2. Quinci: impaling David earl of Angus.

No. 3. Ferrers: impaling Quinci.

THE SAID ALEN EARLE OF GALOWAY AND LADY MARGARET
HIS WYFE HAD YSSVE HELEN MA' TO ROGER QVINCIE EARLE
OF WINCHESTER, WHO HAD YSSVE MARGARET HIS ELDEST
DAUGHTER AND CONEIRE, MARIED TO WILLIAM FERRERS
SECO'D EARLE OF DERBY; OF WHOM LINEALLY DISCENDITH
IOHN FERRERS OF TAMWORTH, NOW LEYVINGE.

In the smaller room.

1. Gu., two chevronells Arg.: impaling Ferrers.

S^R GEORGE HYDE, KNIGHT OF THE BATH, MA' KATHERINE DA'
OF S^R HVM: FER:

2. Arg., on a fess between three annulets Gu., as
many leopards' heads of the first: impaling Ferrers.

S^R WILLIAM SOMERVILL MA' ELIZABETH DAUGHTER OF S^R
HVM: FER: OF TAM:

3. Vairy Ermine and Gu.: impaling Ferrers.

GEORGE GRESLEY OF DRAKELOWE ESQ' MA' SVSAN DA' OF S^R
HVM' FER'.

4. Arg., on a chevron Sa, three quatrefoils Or:
impaling Ferrers.

ROBERT BYRE OF HIGHLOWE ESQ' MA' BRIGET DA' OF S^R
HVM' FER'.

5. Barry of six Arg. and Az., in chief three tor-
teaux: impaling Ferrers, with a label of three points.

S^R EDWARD GRAY MA' ELIZABETH FER', IN WHOSE RIGHT HE
WAS L. FER' OF GROBY.

6. Ferrers of Baddelesley: impaling, quarterly, 1st
and 4th Gu.; 2nd and 3rd Sa. a fleur-de-liz Or. Over
all a bend Arg.

S' HENRY FER' OF CHILSMORE, 2 SON'E OF S' THO' FER' OF
TAM', MA' MARGARETH HECKSTALL.

The chimney-piece in this room is very fine, being carved in oak in an elaborate and beautiful manner. The details are mostly Grecian. It is so large as to reach the ceiling, being thirteen feet high. It is supported at the sides of the fire-place by Corinthian pillars. On the right above, is the figure of a man; on the left, a woman and a child: standing arrayed in the Roman costumes. In the centre, is a coat of arms, containing twelve principal quarterings of the Ferrers' family down to sir John, in James's time; with the motto "ONLY ONE." Around are six small panels. One of these bears the representation of Jupiter drawn in a chariot by eagles. Another represents a dragon at the foot of a tree, evidently intended for the monster Ladon that kept watch over the golden apples in the garden of the Hesperides. A third seems to refer to the punishment of Prometheus, inflicted on him by Jupiter for presuming to form men of clay, and animating them by the sacred fire which he had dared to steal from heaven itself. He is depicted as lying upon the ground, whilst in the tree above the tormenting vulture feeds on his liver, ever growing even whilst plucked by the voracious bird from his side. The other three panels represent the tragic fate of the beautiful Adonis, with whom Aphrodite or Venus had left Olympus to dwell. In one, he stands by the chariot which awaits him, whilst his mistress vainly attempts to dissuade him from joining in the fatal chase. In another, he stands in the midst of his dogs, with the wild-boar. And in the last, he lies slain by the infuriated animal, and the dogs stand around his corpse.

The windows of these two rooms, overlooking the country on the south side of Tamworth, consist of many lights. This front of the Castle was re-faced with stone and repaired in 1783.

Over these two rooms, are numerous chambers. One of them leads to the gallery which passes to the warder's lodge; and another to the gallery on the west side of the edifice.

Beyond the two kitchens, is a small back yard, in which is the Castle-well. It is of considerable depth, as it passes through the mound to a level with the river. It appears to have been thoroughly modernized, at least so far as we could ascertain.

The great hall is almost entirely built of brick. It possesses a high-pitched roof, with finely carved timbers; but the hand of time has deprived them of much of their beauty. From the hall, the two principal staircases lead, one into the south rooms, the other into those on the north side. The steps of the latter are formed of solid blocks of wood.

On the north wall of the hall, were once depicted in fresco, two gigantic figures; whilst the legends below,

SIR LANCELOT DE LAKE,—SIR TARQVIN,
proclaimed the subject of the piece. They were represented as tilting together, just as they are described to have done in the old romance of "Morte Arthur". The painting, however, was white-washed over so as to be scarcely discernible. In 1783, its obliteration was completed by the application of a second coat of white-wash.¹ The wall is now wainscotted half way

¹ Gentleman's Magazine, 1784. In this invaluable work, at the same date, is mentioned an old octangular table which then remained in the Castle. Around the margin, this inscription was cut very deep in the solid oak,—PRAYSE AND GLORY AND WYSDOME AND THANKS AND HONOR AND POWERE AND MYGHT BE VNTO OURS
..... MEN. 1564.

up; and it is probable that the painting is wholly destroyed.¹

The large kitchen behind the hall was erected by the late marquis Townshend, in the place of several rooms which had become greatly delapidated. It is a common brick structure, with an ordinary roof.

The north rooms are older than any other parts of the interior of the Castle. The wall separating them from the rest of the building, runs from the angle of the tower to the west side of the Castle, and is almost wholly built of stone. This part consists of three stories. On the ground-floor are cellars, originally only separated into two, but partitioned off into many. They are entered by doorways from the great kitchen, the hall, and the court-yard. The one connected with the kitchen is alone provided with a window. The second story contains three rooms. Of these the middle one is the largest. Its broad fire-place, its old carved chimney-piece, and its two deep-bayed windows, with stone balconies, present the same general architectural features as the warder's house. From the east room, an additional flight of stairs leads to the rooms above. The third story contains numerous chambers, which were erected by the marquis Townshend. One communicates with the gallery of the western wall. At the opposite end, a staircase conducts into the lumber-room, and then passes to the summit of the tower.

Some words at the end were wanting, as that part of the table had been broken and the piece lost. In the centre, was the horse-shoe, with the arms of Ferrers.

The table, we believe, has been destroyed.

1 There is a ballad circulated in Tamworth, giving an account of the combat between sir Lancelot and sir Tarquin,—the latter of whom had imprisoned many of the knights of king Arthur's round table in this Castle,—in Lady-meadow. No part of this celebrated and interesting romance can be referred to Tamworth. The ballad is an ingenious imitation of the ancient one, commencing,

"When Arthur first in court began,"

which may be seen in Percy's *Reliques of Ancient English poetry*.

The Castle continues to be a noble building. Its commanding position, its situation amidst the trees of the well-planted mound, and its ivy-covered walls, give it the aspect of an interesting and venerable edifice. There are many and great incongruities in the style of the internal buildings, yet these can hardly form a subject of deep regret, as great changes alone, by adding to the place the conveniences of a modern residence, have alone preserved it from total destruction. Certainly a little more adaptation to the original plan might have been observed, without omitting any comforts required in the present state of society. But it is pleasing to reflect that the building does not exhibit the mournful aspect of very many of our ancient military and ecclesiastical structures, now lying under the ban of desolation. The prominent features of the Castle still present a sufficient memorial of the great Champions who once held it, and derived from its possession one of their proudest dignities. The mighty bard of the north, who sang, in long and pleasing strains of the brave but vicious hero, the

“———— Lord of Fontenaye,
Of Letterward and Scrivelbaye,
Of Tamworth tower and town.”

when he visited this place,¹ was highly gratified with

¹ Sir Walter Scott paid a visit to Tamworth-Castle in the early part of the year 1828. Mr. Bramall and his family were greatly disappointed at not having known of the presence of so eminent and popular a writer. His name was only discovered by the visitors' book. Mr. Bramall, when shortly after in London, wrote to invite him to pay another visit to the Castle. Sir Walter Scott returned the following answer.

“Sir,—The numerous avocations of this place have prevented hitherto my returning you my sincere thanks for your kind invitation to Tamworth Castle; of which I sincerely felt the polite kindness. I had great pleasure in seeing the fine old Tower, and should have rejoiced to see the possessor.

My return, as it takes me to the east side of the island, will not permit [me] to accept of your very obliging offer to receive me at Tamworth.

24 Sussex place,
26 April. [1828.]

I am, Sir,
Your obliged humble Servant,
WALTER SCOTT.”

the venerable building. Perchance, as he paced the noble hall, he recalled to his mind his own lines, where he describes the Scottish monarch, James, as suggesting that,

“ — if within Tantallon strong,
The good Lord Marmion tarries long,
Perchance our meeting next may fall
At Tamworth, in his castle-hall.”

Well did the haughty Marmyon reply,

“ Much honoured were my humble home,
If in its halls King James should come ;
But Nottingham has archers good,
And Yorkshire men are stern of mood ;
Northumbrian prickers wild and rude.
On Derby Hills the paths are steep ;
In Ouse and Tyne the fords are deep,
And many a banner will be torn,
And many a knight to earth be borne,
And many a sheaf of arrows spent,
Ere Scotland's king shall cross the Trent.”

Yet, before a century had rolled by, Scotland's king, a weak vain pedant, did cross the Trent, without bloodshed or opposition. Soon, too, he feasted and revelled in this very Castle, to which his predecessor is represented in the pleasing romance as threatening so hostile and unwelcomed a visit.

THE TOWN WALLS.

The outer fortifications of the town consisted of a broad dry ditch, inside of which was raised a high embankment crowned by a defensive wall. They were of considerable extent, including the whole of the present town, except about nine-tenths of Lichfield-street, the part of Gungate north of Aldergate-street, and a very small portion of Bolebridge-street. With the Tame and Anker, which formed the fourth side and completed the defence on the south, they enclosed an area of ground almost but not perfectly square; for, on account of a bend in the latter river, the east and south sides were longer than the rest, and the north was rather shortest of all. It seems that the wall, without the bank and ditch, was continued parallel with the Tame from the extremity of the western side to the Castle. The posterns or bars, affording exits from the interior, were situated in Ladybridge-street or the Holloway, Lichfield-street, Gungate, and doubtless Bolebridge-street, although we have not expressly found a bar recorded there.¹ The part of the fortifications from the north-west angle to Lichfield-street obtained the name of the Walfurlong, being about one eighth of a mile in length; and some land parallel to it was called the field of the Walfurlong.² It is curious to remark in the existing lanes, how paths were formed

¹ Probably there was a postern at the present Schoolhouse-lane.

² Court Rolls, etc.,

close around the fortifications, from postern to postern, affording ready communication from the town to all the surrounding fields. From Lichfield-street bar, Wyburne-lane ran down to the bank of the Tame; at the extremity of which a path by the river seems to have communicated with Lady-bridge. Another lane passed northwards from the same postern, and joined one from Gungate bar. A path ran eastwards from the latter, joining Perrycroft-lane, which through the Dead-lanes passed to Bolebridge-street bar.

We cannot ascertain precisely by whom these extensive bulwarks were erected. The general form exhibits so great similitude to the camps constructed by the Romans, that only the want of direct historical evidence on the point has prevented us from maintaining our firm conviction that Tamworth was once a Roman station, and one of considerable importance. Offa, when he fortified the town, and erected his palace here, very probably took advantage of the foundations of the older structure, and re-formed the ditch; which, even to these days, has retained the name of Offa's dyke, or the more general designation of the King's ditch. Ethelflæda repaired these defences; and they must have again been renewed after the calamitous visit of Anlaf, probably by one of the early Norman lords of the Castle.

We have not discovered how long the fortifications remained in a state fit for defence. They seem to have gone to decay from disuse at an early period, apparently between the reign of Richard II. and that of Henry VI.; as then the part of Lichfield-street once called Outwall-street, being external to the bar, became united in name with the rest. The soil within ditch has always been cultivated, but such a practice did not

diminish its utility for defence, and was far from an uncommon occurrence in this country.

The fortifications may still be easily traced in the greater part of their extent, by the ditch and mound: all vestiges of the walls are gone. Of the western side, commencing by the Tame, a little below Lady-bridge, and running in a straight line to a level with the top of Aldergate, the part between the river and the Roman Catholic Chapel,—built on the embankment,—has been obliterated by the gardens near the stream, and by the houses in and about Lichfield-street. But from this Chapel, the mound and ditch are very apparent, the latter being a broad but now shallow excavation in the general level of soil. At the corner, where they turn off at a little more than a right angle eastwards towards the Perrycrofts, the bank is of some height. It may be observed for a short distance along the north side, but it is soon lost: the ditch may be traced considerably farther. Eastwards of Gungate, the vestiges become more distinct than in any other part. The second angle is here situated in a field called Hill or Castle-croft.¹ Along the east side, the bank and fosse, may be seen more or less distinctly, behind Gungate, Colehill, and Bolebridge-street, until the houses and buildings near the bottom of the latter interrupt them, and efface all traces of their course. Dugdale states that, according to his own observation, the ditch was at least forty-five feet broad.² Being now entirely taken up by buildings, crofts, gardens, and some of the surrounding lanes, it has become very greatly obliterated;

¹ Our readers will call to mind the Castle-lane and Castle-orchard, situated near the Walfurlong, of which we have previously spoken.

² Dugdale's Warwicksh.

but it is very evident that the width was not over-rated. The original height of the embankment, judging from the parts best preserved, would appear to have been from fifteen to twenty-five feet.

Within the last forty years, many bones of horses and other animals have been found in digging within the entrenchment. Even those of human beings are said to have been discovered; but this circumstance is extremely doubtful. If true, they were probably remains of persons slain when the Danes last besieged the town. Nothing, however, has been brought to light of any value or interest to the student of antiquities.

THE FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The Free Grammar School of Tamworth may be conjectured to have existed in the fourteenth century; but its origin is involved in obscurity. It appears to have been under the control of the ecclesiastical authorities of the town. Leland mentions it in his interesting Itinerary. He says, "there is a Guild of St. Geo.¹ in Tamworth, and to it belonged 5*l.* Land per an., and of late one Johne Bailie² gave other 5*l.* Land unto it; and therewith is now erected a Grammer-Schoole."³ This appears to refer to the building of the School-house.

The Free Grammar School came into the hands of the king, in 1547, at the same time with the College. The commission directed to sir Henry Mildmay and Robert Kelway included not only the Church, but the maintenance and continuation of this foundation, if they deemed it necessary. They ordered that it should remain, and that one Nicholas Brooke should still enjoy the place of schoolmaster, receiving the annual stipend of 10*l.* 13*s.* 2½*d.*, that had from old time been answered to him; which, should be paid by the auditor and

¹ We have found very scanty memorials of the Holy Guild of St. George, a very general religious confraternity in the town. The court rolls state that on the 18th of October, 1516, John Lycett and Thomas Goldson were elected wardens of the guild. The wardens were, perhaps, also keepers of the light of their patron saint. The priest of St. George in the Church was the chaplain.

² A Mr. Bailey founded a fellowship in St. John's college, Cambridge, which was augmented by his executors; appropriated first to a native of the parish of Tamworth, then to one of the county of Stafford or Derby, and then to one of the diocese of Lichfield and Coventry. The person elected must be in full order at twenty-four years of age, or within twelve months after.

³ Vol. IV., fol. 189, b.

receiver of the court of augmentation and revenues of the crown of the county of Stafford. Elizabeth, when she granted the College to Edmund Downing and Peter Ashton, in the year 1581, retained the amount of salary to be paid, as part of the fee-farm rent.

Queen Elizabeth, by her charter of 1588, reciting the order of the commissioners, directed that there should be a Grammar School in the town, which should be called "the Free Grammar School of Elizabeth, queen of England, in Tamworth," for the education and instruction of boys in grammar, to continue for all future time, and to consist of one master or pedagogue. And she appointed the bailiffs and commonalty a body corporate, by the name of "the Guardians and Governors of the Possessions, Revenues, and Goods, of the Free Grammar School of Elizabeth, Queen of England, in Tamworth." She gave them the power, in this capacity, of nominating and appointing the schoolmaster. She also granted to the guardians and governors the annual rent of 10*l.* 13*s.* 2½*d.*, for the salary of the master, which was to be paid in the manner prescribed in 1548.¹

The School thus constituted and governed proved a good institution, and of much utility to the town and neighbourhood. The building occupied since the revival of the foundation was at first merely rented for the purpose. But by deed, dated the 26th of May, 1594, sir John Bowes, knight, of Elford, freely granted to the bailiffs and commonalty the burgage known as the School-house, with the adjoining garden, to be used as a Grammar School for ever.² On the site of this the present building has been erected.

We have not discovered the appointments of the

¹ Charter, 30 Eliz.

² Deed, 36 Eliz.

earlier schoolmasters. One of them, Henry Baron, was buried on the 3rd of March, 1624-5.¹ William Black, it seems, was elected to the office in 1635. On his cessation in 1644, Mr. Ellis was chosen, whose nomination by the guardians occurred on the 30th of May.² How long the latter continued to occupy the place, we cannot say. On the 7th of November, 1659, the guardians and governors elected George Antrobus, M.A., to be schoolmaster, during his life.³

Charles II., by his charter to the town dated February, 1663-4, confirmed the grant of the School made by queen Elizabeth, and formed the bailiffs into a body corporate under the same name of guardians and governors. It was also directed, that they, with the consent of the high-steward of the borough, should have full power to frame statutes for the regulation of the School; that the guardians and governors, with the twenty-four capital burgesses, assembled in common hall, should have the appointment of the master; they should have the ancient annuity of 10*l.* 13*s.* 2½*d.* for his salary; and also the house and garden then used for the School, and called the School-house, for the residence of the master.⁴

During the time that Mr. Antrobus presided over the institution, the School attained its most flourishing state. Several eminent persons were here educated by him, and amongst them the rev. William Whiston, whose religious publications and strong vindication of Arian tenets attracted so great attention in the former part of last century. He married his master's daughter.⁵ Nor were the exertions of Mr. Antrobus confined to the literary dignity of the foundation. In 1674, he

1 Parish Register. 2 Corporation records. 3 Indenture, 1659.
4 Charter, 16 Car. II. 5 Whiston's Memoirs.

added a bay and a half of buildings at the back of the master's residence, at his own expence, except 8*l*. granted for the purpose by the corporation.¹ And in 1677, he raised extensive contributions, by which he was enabled to rebuild the School-room, and fit it up in the present style.

The assistance then rendered, abstracted from a tablet placed in the room, was as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
The guardians and governors of the School, out of the town funds	10	0	0
Charles lord Clifford of Lansborough, eldest son of Rich. earl of Burlington, and M.P. for Tamworth	10	0	0
John Swinfen, esq., M.P. for Tamworth	3	0	0
Sir Andrew Hacket, recorder	5	0	0
John lord viscount Massareen	10	0	0
Sophia countess Wimbledon	2	0	0
Sir Edward Littleton, bart.	5	0	0
Letitia, widow of sir Thomas Wendy, K.B.	5	0	0
Sir Humphry Ferrers, knt.	5	0	0
Thomas, eldest son of Henry Thynne, bart.	10	0	0
Emma, widow of Francis Willoughby, esq.	10	0	0
Sebright Repington, esq.	3	0	0
Henry Leigh, esq.	1	0	0
William Palmer, esq.	3	0	0
Catherine, widow of Clement Winstanley, esq.	3	0	0
John Stratford, esq.	3	0	0
Francis Wolverstan, esq., gave the schoolmaster's seat and desk, which he erected in the School at his sole charge.			
Joseph Girdler, esq.	5	0	0
Johanna, relict of Waldive Willington, esq.	1	0	0
Susanna, widow of Waldive Willington, esq.	1	0	0
George Alsop	1	0	0
William Ashley	1	0	0
Walter Ashmore	0	10	0
Leicester Barbour	1	0	0
George Barbour, M.D.	1	0	0

¹ Corporation records.

John Barbour	2	0	0
Thomas Barnes	2	0	0
Lawrence Baskerville	3	10	6
Job Beardsley	0	10	0
Samuel Beardale	0	10	0
Thomas Bearcroft	2	0	0
Thomas Bearcroft, clerk	2	0	0
Philip Bearcroft	0	10	0
Thomas Brook, clerk	0	10	0
Richard Cross, clerk	1	0	0
Thomas Devill	0	10	0
Samuel Dilke	2	0	0
John Dowley	2	3	0
Samuel Floyer	2	10	0
Peter Floyer	2	10	0
Samuel Frankland	2	5	0
Francis Gramer	1	0	0
Thomas Guy	5	0	0
John Guy	2	0	0
Nicholas Juxon	2	0	0
Samuel Langley, clerk	2	0	0
Samuel Nicholls, clerk	2	0	0
Nicholas Parker	1	0	0
John Pyott	1	0	0
Morgan Powell	1	0	0
William Pickard	3	0	0
Thomas Pickard	10	0	0
William Pretty	0	10	0
John Rawlet, clerk	5	0	0
John Savage	0	10	0
Henry Stone	1	0	0
William Symonds	1	0	0
Edward Symonds	1	0	0
John Vaughton, sen.	1	0	0
John Vaughton, jun.	1	0	0
Thomas Willington, besides a sufficiency of stone, which he freely allowed to be got out of his quarry	2	0	0
Middlemore Wolverston	0	10	0
William Wragg, clerk	0	10	0

158 16 6

About 40*l.* of this sum was procured by Mr. Antrobus from gentlemen, strangers to the town, who had been his scholars, or from the friends of those who were still under his tuition. Many other persons gave sums of money below 10*s.*, which were not set down. Some also living in the neighbourhood assisted in the work with the gift of labour, and employed their teams to carry the materials.

The rebuilding of the School was completed in 1678. It is a spacious convenient room, constructed of brick, with stone dressings. It has now acquired a sombre aspect externally, and, although not yet two-hundred years old, is beginning to lose its firmness. The master's seat and desk is a large oak structure, and bears carved upon it the admonitory sentence,

VT IMPERES PARERE

F. W.

DISCAS.

VT DICTITES TACERE

1678.

Shortly after these improvements in the edifice had been carried into effect, a scholarship was founded in one of the colleges of Cambridge, for a person educated at this School. Samuel Frankland, M.A., a native of the parish of Tamworth, where he was educated, who became head-master of the school at Coventry, by his last will and testament, bearing date the 21st of July, 1691, demised to his wife, for her natural life, his messuage, lands, and hereditaments, lying at Cubbington, in the county of Warwick; with all his personal property. And after her decease, he bequeathed the lands, and so much of his personal estate remaining as should be required to make up the amount of 600*l.*, to the masters and fellows of Catherine-hall, in Cambridge, and to their successors for ever, upon these uses and

trusts. The sum of 20*l.* a-year should go towards the maintenance of a fellow sent to the hall out of the grammar-school of Coventry, towards which object Matthew Scrivener, by his last will, had given an annuity of 20*l.* These sums, with a convenient chamber, for which Mr. Frankland had already paid 80*l.* to the college, would form a handsome provision for the "Frankland fellowship." And 10*l.* a-year should be assigned for the maintenance of one scholar, sent to the hall, at the recommendation of the minister and schoolmaster, out of the Free Grammar School at Tamworth, for whom had been promised a chamber free from charge. But if the sum raised should fall short of 600*l.*, the scholarship should bear the loss, so that the fellowship might remain unimpaired.¹

George Antrobus died in July, 1708, after he had been schoolmaster for nearly forty-nine years. On the 16th of September following, the bailiffs and commonalty nominated Dr. Samuel Shaw to the place, and directed that he should enter into his duties on St. Thomas' day ensuing; but his patent was not signed until the 7th of January. In the mean time, Mrs. Antrobus and her son Burgesse carried on the School.²

Dr. Shaw maintained the School in the high repute, in which it was consigned to his care. He was the author of some good Latin works for the use of his

¹ Copy of the will. The scholarship was not diminished.

Dr. Robert Green, a native of Tamworth, who received his early education under Mr. Antrobus, and became a fellow of Clare-hall, Cambridge, by his will dated the 10th of October, 1721, bequeathed money for the purchase of two pieces of plate,—silver cups,—of the value of 6*l.* each, bearing appropriate inscriptions, to be given to two scholars in their sophisters' years, the first as a reward of piety, virtue, and goodness; and the second for ingenuity, scholarship, and learning,—it being a more difficult task to be a real Christian than an excellent scholar. And if it should happen that, in the judgment of the masters and fellows of the college, the same youth should be the most eminent of his year for both the endowments of piety and learning, he should be presented with the two pieces of plate.

² Corporation records.

scholars. He repaired the buildings of the School, in 1710, at a charge of 15*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*, of which 10*l.* was repaid him by the corporation; who, in 1722, allowed him 28*l.* 14*s.* for further improvements.¹ He continued here until his decease, which occurred in April, 1730. Mrs. Shaw provided for the School, until a successor was nominated.

Thomas Ebdall, M.A., was appointed schoolmaster, on the 15th of September following, by the guardians and capital burgesses. He remained in the office for a very short time, tendering his resignation on the 8th of February, 1732-3; at which time the rev. William Sawrey was chosen to supply his place.

William Sawrey continued to exercise his duties as schoolmaster about eight years; when he resigned.

The rev. John Princep was immediately chosen in the place of Mr. Sawrey, on the 21st of January, 1740-1, by the guardians and governors. On the 11th of October, 1752, he resigned into the hands of the corporation their gift of the Free School to him.²

On the 26th of October following, the rev. Simon Collins was nominated to be the master. Under his superintendence, the School appears to have been in a prosperous state, there being numerous classical scholars on the foundation, and boarders admitted from a distance.

On the demise of Simon Collins, in 1793, the rev. John Oldershaw was chosen by the guardians, whose nomination occurred on the 25th of June. He remained here about thirteen years.

The rev. Charles Edward, son of Simon Collins, was elected master on the 1st of August, 1805, when

¹ Corporation records.

² *Ibid.*

his predecessor resigned the office. During his continuance here, the institution rapidly declined, and at last the mastership became a complete sinecure. When he gave it up, there was a vacancy for half a year, and the operation of the School was wholly suspended.

On the appointment of the rev. Samuel Downes, on the 17th of August, 1813, the guardians attempted to remedy the defects lately manifested, which tended so greatly to impair the utility of the foundation. These principally arose from the scantiness of the endowment, and the practice of granting the office of schoolmaster for the life of the person, without retaining the immediate power of removal at any time. Some rules were drawn up, with the consent of the high-steward, by which it was ordered that the master should instruct all the free scholars in arithmetic, and writing, and also reading English and the principles of English grammar, and that he should be entitled to a compensation of four guineas a-year from each of those who should receive such instructions. Mr. Downes also was made to give a bond to the guardians and governors, conditioning that he would resign within the space of six months after he should have been requested to do so in writing by them. The School began to revive for a little time. The building was put in repair, in 1814, at a considerable expence, 68*l.* 15*s.* being raised by public contribution, in addition to 50*l.* which was granted out of the corporation funds. The late sir Robert Peel gave 20*l.* Mr. Downes had about a dozen scholars, of whom three or four were boarders. But he soon voluntarily ceased to receive more; and the School again sunk, insomuch that, in 1823, there were only four boys who attended for

two hours in the morning, and then resorted to other schools to acquire knowledge in other essential branches of education. Afterwards the institution became entirely deserted, although Mr. Downes still resided in the house, and received the emoluments of his office. The building fell into a state of great delapidation. The disapprobation of the guardians and governors at the existing state of the institution was strongly expressed at a meeting held on the 29th of September, 1826; and, soon afterwards, Mr. Downes placed his resignation in their hands. On the 9th of May, in the following year, the rev. Thomas Pearson Lammin was elected master in his stead.¹

The School-room and house adjoining were thoroughly repaired, at an expence of 169*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, which was defrayed by public subscription. Under the very able and judicious management of Mr. Lammin, whose exertions were ever unremitting, the School once more became a flourishing institution, numbering between thirty and forty day-scholars, and about eight boarders, the latter of whom paid thirty guineas a-year.

In the order of the high court of Chancery made in 1837, by which all the charitable gifts belonging to the town that had been consigned to the care and management of the late bailiffs and commonalty, were placed for administration in the hands of nine trustees, the Free Grammar School, being then under no legal governance, was specially included. In consequence, these trustees,—William Knight, Matthew Ingle, Richard Barratt, Shirley Palmer M.D., Thomas Cox, John Butler, Francis Hunter, Samuel Hanson, and R. K. Fallows,—received the control of this institution, with

¹ Corporation records.

as full and ample powers as the late guardians and governors had ever possessed under the charters of Elizabeth and Charles II. To them, the election of the master now appertains.

The decease of the rev. T. P. Lammin occurred on the 16th of March, 1837. The School was vacant for a time ; but, towards the close of the same year, the trustees appointed Mr. Henry Handley to be master, by whom the office is still held.

The School is only free for boys residing within the borough. Of the stipend paid by the crown, the master only receives 7*l.* 13*s.*, the remainder being deducted for land-tax and fees of office. Several gifts in perpetuity, derived from the liberality of private individuals, have increased the amount to about 34*l.* These we shall especially mention, when we speak of the charities connected with the town. The School-house is held by the master rent-free. The efficacy of the institution is very much limited by the exceedingly small endowment attached to it. It is evident that, unless the emoluments be considerably increased, either by public grant or private benefactions, this institution will never fully realize the intention of its establishment. Yet, from the absence of any large school of eminence for some distance around, the utility of the Free Grammar School of Tamworth would be incalculably great, not only to the town, but to the surrounding neighbourhood.

SIR ROBERT PEEL'S SCHOOL.

There had long been acknowledged in Tamworth a great deficiency, tending to retard the moral improvement of the people, in the absence of any public institution, conducted on an extensive and liberal scale, for the education of the children of the poor inhabitants. The first great and successful attempt to remedy the defect, was made by the late sir Robert Peel, bart.



The family of Peel is of ancient standing in the county-palatine of Lancaster.

ROBERT PEEL, of Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire, *d.* about 1736, and was *bur.* at Blackburn. His son, by Anne his wife,

WILLIAM PEEL, of Oswaldtwistle, *m.* Jane, dau. of Lawrence Walmsley, of Darwin, in Lancashire; *d.* about 1760, and was *bur.* at Blackburn, in the same county. His son,

ROBERT PEEL, was *b.* in 1722. He resided, during the greater part of his life, at Peel-fold or Peel-cross, near Blackburn; and was a farmer and cotton-manufacturer. After his works had been attacked by a mob, he removed his spinning-trade to Burton-on-Trent, in Staffordshire; where he established cotton-mills.

He *d.* Sept. 12th, 1795, and was *bur.* at St. John's, Manchester. By his wife Elizabeth, dau. of Edmund Howorth, of Blackburn,—she *d.* in March, 1796,—he had,

I. WILLIAM, of Church-bank, co. of Lancaster, who *m.* Mary dau. of Tho. Howorth, of Blackburn, and had a large family.

II. EDMUND, who *m.*, and had issue.

III. ROBERT, of whom we shall immediately speak.

IV. JONATHAN.

V. LAWRENCE, who *m.*, and had issue.

In the year 1820, he founded, entirely at his own expense, a School conducted on the national plan for the instruction of 100 poor boys, providing them at

VI. JOSEPH, who *d.* in 1820, leaving issue.

VII. JOHN, of Burton-upon-Trent.

VIII. ANN, who was *m.*, 1st to the rev. Borlase Willock, of Horwood, in Lancashire; 2nd to the rev. Geo. Park, of Hawkstead. She *d.* in 1826.

ROBERT PEEL, the founder of the fortunes of his family, was *b.* at Peel-fold, Apr. 25th, 1750. He was educated at Blackburn grammar school. In 1778, he entered into partnership with Messrs. Yates and Howard, of Bury, bringing in a share of 3 or 4,000*l.* of property to the firm; who established a cotton manufactory at Chamber-hall. The business was first limited to calico-printing; but afterwards all the other branches were added. Uninterrupted success attended the concern; and soon the works were extended to numerous places, in different counties. Mr. Peel became a banker in Manchester for a short time. In 1778, having acquired a large fortune, he purchased Drayton-manor from the marquis of Bath. He brought the cotton-trade into Tamworth and the neighbourhood. He soon came from Chamber-hall to reside at Drayton. Mr. Peel was returned to Parliament for Tamworth in 1790, and he continued to represent the borough until 1820. In 1797, he and Mr. Yates contributed 10,000*l.* towards defraying the expenses of the war; and he assisted in the formation and support of the Lancashire Fencibles and the Tamworth Armed Association. In 1798, he took the command of six companies of men, called the Bury Loyal Volunteers, chiefly formed of his own work-people. For his services, he was created a baronet, Nov. 29th, 1800. In 1818, sir Robert Peel retired from the cotton business, having realized, it is conjectured, no less than 2,500,000*l.* He *d.* at Drayton, May 3rd, 1830. His will was proved June 8th following. The personals were sworn at "upper

value" or more than 900,000*l.*; the probate-stamp was 15,000*l.*, and the legacy-duty paid exceeded 10,000*l.* Drayton-park, and other estates in the cos. of Warw. and Staff., were entailed on the title. To the 240,000*l.* previously advanced as gifts to, or settled on, his children,—exclusive of 9,000*l.* per annum secured to his eldest son,—sums were added increasing the portions of his five younger sons to 135,000*l.* each, and those of his daughters to 53,000*l.* each. His legacies to friends and old servants and his bequests to public institutions amounted to a very considerable sum. Of the residue, calculated at 500,000*l.*, four-ninths were given to his eldest son, and one-ninth to each of the younger ones. Sir Robert Peel was twice *m.* His 1st wife, *m.* July 8th, 1783, was Ellen, dau. of his partner Mr. Yates;—*b.* March 22nd, 1766,—by whom he had a numerous family. His 2nd wife, *m.* Oct. 18th, 1805, was Susanna, youngest sister of the rev. sir W. H. Clarke, bart., rector of Bury: she *d.* Sept. 19th, 1824. *s. p.*

I. MARY, *b.* June 17th, 1784; *m.* Jan. 9th, 1816, to the rt. hon. Geo. Rob. Dawson, of Castle-Dawson, formerly secretary to the treasury.

II. ELIZABETH, *b.* Apr. 13th, 1786; *m.* Dec. 30th, 1805, to the rev. Will. Cockburn, dean of York; *d.* June 16th 1828.

III. ROBERT, the present rt. hon. baronet.

IV. WILLIAM YATES, *b.* Aug. 3rd, 1789. He *m.*, June 17th, 1819, lady Jane-Elizabeth Moore, 2nd dau. of Stephen, *c.* of Mountcassel; and has a numerous family. The rt. hon. W. Y. Peel has been M.P. for Tamworth, and a member of the privy council.

V. EDMUND, *b.* Aug. 8th, 1791; *m.*, in 1812, Jane, 2nd dau. of John Swinfen, esq., of Swinfen, co. of Staff. He was formerly M.P. for Newcastle-under-Line.

VI. ELEANORA, *d.* an infant.

VII. ANNE, *d.* an infant.

VIII. HARRIETT-ELEANORA, *b.* March 25th, 1794; *m.* March 11th, 1824, to the rt. hon. Robert, 2nd lord Henley, a master in Chancery, who *d.* in the early part of 1841.

the same time with clothes, and giving to each a shilling loaf weekly. This excellent establishment was supported by the founder during his life: and, in his

IX. JOHN, *b.* Aug. 22nd, 1796, in orders, being a prebendary of Canterbury, and vicar of Stone. He *m.* May 6th, 1824, Augusta, another dau. of John Swinfen, *esq.*

X. JONATHAN, *b.* Oct. 18th, 1799; a Lieut.-colonel in the army, and M.P. for Huntingdon. He *m.* March 19th, 1824, lady Alicia-Jane Kennedy, youngest dau. of Archibald, *c.* of Cassilis, now marquis of Alisa, K.T.

XI. LAWRENCE, *b.* in 1800; *m.* July 20th, 1822, lady Jane Lennox, 4th dau. of Charles, 4th duke of Richmond.

ROBERT PEEL, *esq.*,—the present right hon. sir Robert Peel, bart.,—was *b.* at Chamber-hall, near Bury, Feb. 5th, 1788. He was sent to school at Harrow, and finished his education at Christ Church-college, Oxford. In 1809, he was returned to Parliament for Cashel, in Ireland, and commenced the splendid political career, by which his life has been since distinguished. His promotion in the state soon followed. In 1810, he was appointed under-secretary of state for the colonial department. In the administration of the earl of Liverpool, which succeeded that of Mr. Percival, the rt. hon. Robert Peel, in Sept., 1812, was constituted chief secretary for Ireland, under the viceroyship of the late duke of Richmond. At the general election, in the same year, he was returned to Parliament for Chippenham. And, in 1817, 1818, 1820, and 1826, he was returned for the university of Oxford. In 1818, he retired from his office as Irish secretary; but, Jan. 17th, 1822, was appointed secretary for the home department. This post he retained until 1827, when Mr. Canning came into power for a short time. After the death of this statesman, in the same year, Mr. Peel again became home-secretary, under the administration of the duke of Wellington. Mr. Peel had hitherto been one of the most powerful opponents of the claims of Catholics to emancipation; but now, convinced

he declared that they could no longer be resisted with safety to the national welfare, he resumed office on the condition of conceding them. Conscious of the opposition of such a measure to the sentiments of his constituents, in the early part of 1829, he resigned his seat for the university of Oxford. His re-election was successfully opposed by sir Rob. H. Inglis; but, March 5th, he was elected for the borough of Westbury. The Catholic Emancipation-bill, which had long formed a subject of dispute and agitation, was carried, and, Apr. 13th, received the royal assent. Mr. Peel succeeded to the baronetcy of his family, in May, 1830. In this year, he lost his office of home secretary, on the accession of the Whig-party to power. From this time, he has been returned to Parliament for Tamworth. At the close of 1834, sir Robert Peel was called upon to form a new government, and he became prime minister and chancellor of the exchequer; but his administration was of a short duration, as he resigned in the April following. In May, 1839, he was again elevated to the dignity of prime-minister; but, in a few days, he resigned the important trust; when the Whig administration resumed power. In the middle of the year 1841, he was, a third time, called upon to assume the dignity of first lord of the treasury: and, from that time to the present day, he has retained the government of the British Empire. The right hon. sir Robert Peel *m.*, June 8th, 1820, Julia, youngest dau. of general sir John Floyd, bart., and has,

I. ROBERT, *b.* May 4th, 1822.

II. FREDERICK, *b.* Oct. 20th, 1823.

III. WILLIAM, *b.* Nov. 2nd, 1824.

IV. JOHN-FLOYD, *b.* May 12th, 1827.

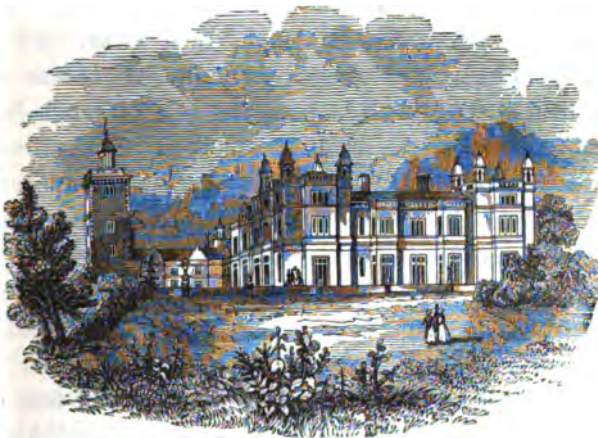
V. ARTHUR-WELLESLEY, *b.* Aug 3rd, 1829.

VI. JULIA, *m.*, 1841, George viscount Villiers, eldest son of George, earl of Jersey.

VII. ELIZA.

will, he bestowed upon it an ample endowment by leaving for its maintenance the sum of 6,000*l*. The complete control of it he placed in the hands of his eldest son, the present right hon. sir Robert Peel.

During the year 1837, a neat commodious building was erected in Lichfield-street, to serve as a School in place of a large room, which had heretofore been occupied for that purpose, and was situated in Church-street, adjoining the Church-yard. Here about 80 boys now receive the regular instruction, which their station in life may demand.



THE NATIONAL SCHOOL.

The inconvenience resulting from the want of rooms amply sufficient in size and possessed of the necessary accommodations for Sunday-schools in connection with, and under the control of the authorities of, the church of England, reasonably created a desire on the part of the persons belonging to the establishment for the erection of a building that would subserve a purpose of so great utility and importance. In order to remedy the manifest defect, active measures were adopted, in 1826, by the rev. Francis Blick, then vicar, and his friends, to raise the necessary funds. A bazaar was then held in the Town-hall for the sale of small fancy or useful articles, the result of which was the realization of the sum of 323*l*. The success attendant upon this occasion, and the promises of liberal assistance which were tendered by influential and wealthy persons, led to the determination that the plan originally laid down should be enlarged, and a weekly School, conducted on Dr. Bell's system of education, established, and the rooms erected for such a purpose used on the first day of the week as a Sunday-school. The accomplishment of this extended scheme necessarily demanded an increase of outlay. To provide for this, a second bazaar was held in the early part of the year 1828, by means of which an additional sum of 353*l*. was obtained. Exten-

sive subscriptions were also raised throughout the town and neighbourhood. The National society bestowed 200*l.*, and 50*l.* was given by that of Lichfield. A sufficient sum was thus obtained for the foundation of the School.

The building stands in College-lane, on the site of the College-house of the ancient vicars. The erection and fitting up of the whole cost nearly 1,200*l.* It is a neat building, and consists of two rooms, the lower in front for boys, and the upper at the back for girls. Behind is another room used for the preparatory training of infants.

The School is supported, partly by small weekly payments from each child, and partly by free contributions. An annuity of 8*l.* is paid out of the rev. J. Rawlet's charity, for the education of twelve girls free. On the disbandment of the Tamworth volunteers, 400*l.* raised for their support was left in the hands of the late sir Robert Lawley. This sum was subsequently invested in the three per cents, in the name of certain trustees, to educate freely in this School for every 1*l.* of interest an immediate child or grandchild of the volunteers, at the nomination of the trustees: and after the failure of such children the interest should be applied to the general purposes of this institution. The trustees appointed were, sir Robert Lawley, bart.; Francis Lawley, esq., M.P.; the vicar of Tamworth; and the perpetual curate or curates of Wilnecote and Wigginton, for the time being; and Richard F. A. Freeman, esq. In case of the deceases of sir Robert and Mr. Francis Lawley, two representatives of the same family should be chosen in their stead.

The School is conducted in a very efficient manner, and is numerously attended.

THE WORKHOUSE.

The first attempt to provide a remedy for the great inconvenience which was occasioned to the town by the wants and the number of the poor, and to furnish a permanent relief to the burden which such had created, was made in the reign of James II. The right hon. Thomas lord viscount Weymouth, by indenture dated the 26th of February, 1686-7, granted to the bailiffs of the town and their successors, to sir Edward Littleton bart., Sebright Repington esq., Francis Wolverston esq., Nicholas Parker gent., George Alsop gent., and Samuel Langley clerk, their heirs and assigns, for the promotion and encouragement of industry and the provision of a place for the poor, a barn and fold on the south side of a lane leading from the Schoolhouse of Tamworth towards Amington-hall; upon trust, that they should convert the same into a Workhouse wherein the poor might be employed and their children instructed.

The barn thus liberally bestowed by lord Weymouth, was estimated at about 30*l*. A new building was erected on the ground by public contributions, which, with the value of materials and of labour freely given, amounted to 119*l*. 2*s*. 6*d*. Amongst the benefactors were, Samuel Port alias Porch, who gave 10*l*.; sir Edward Littleton, 5*l*.; dame Elizabeth Ferrers, 5*l*.;

Matthew Floyer, four trees valued at 5*l.*; Thomas Guy, 5*l.*; Sebright Repington, 6,000 bricks valued at 3*l.*; sir Henry Gough, 1*l.* 10*s.*; and John Guy, 1*l.*¹ This building obtained the name of the Spinning-school. It was used only for children; and was mostly supported by voluntary subscriptions. The corporation usually gave 4*l.* a-year towards its maintenance; and, in July, 1693, a similar annual sum was added by Thomas Guy.²

The Spinning-school, in the course of time,—for what reason does not plainly appear,—fell entirely into disuse; so that, in 1719, it was directed by the bailiffs and commonalty that the building should be converted into a number of houses for the poor. This order was immediately put into execution.³

The number of paupers continually increasing, and the burden of their maintenance becoming by degrees very great, it was thought necessary, in 1739, to erect a Workhouse within the borough for the benefit of the town; and, on the 10th of May, the bailiffs and commonalty ordered that subscriptions should be raised and solicited for the promotion of such a purpose. The bounty of a nobleman saved the town from incurring the great expense of raising an edifice. James earl of Northampton, the lord of the Castle, purchased a messuage and piece of land containing 1*r.* 21*p.* situated in Gungate, adjoining Colehill; and there he erected a large building for a Workhouse. And by indenture of the 14th of December, 1741, he granted this to the use of the borough, for the lodging, maintenance, and employment of the poor of the borough and also of the Castle-liberty; and for other charitable uses specified, the earl gave the land and messuage to William lord

1 Langley's M. S., 1690. 2 Corporation Records. 3 *Ib.*

Andover and others, upon trust, to permit the inhabitants to use it, provided they employed it as a Workhouse. And in case it should be disused as such for the space of twelve months, the trustees should take possession of it: and they, with the minister, bailiffs, and town-clerk of the borough, should let the premises, and apply the rents, after deducting so much as should be requisite for repairs, to such pious and charitable uses as they should think proper, amongst the inhabitants of the borough and liberty having legal settlements there, regard being paid to the greatest and most necessitous objects of charity. And when the trustees, by death or otherwise, should be reduced to three, the survivors should immediately elect four more new trustees, substantial inhabitants of the town of Tamworth or gentlemen of estate and condition in the counties of Stafford or Warwick. The expenses of the new deeds of trust, and all other charges incident to the charity should be paid out of the poors' levies whilst the building should serve as a Workhouse, and afterwards out of the rents and profits of the messuage.¹

But the new Poor-house was soon insufficient to afford all the relief which was required. The edifice in Gungate was abandoned in 1750 for the present Workhouse, which had been erected and completely furnished for such a purpose at the expense of Thomas lord viscount Weymouth and Francis lord Middleton, who, by deed dated the 4th of May, in that year, gave it to be used for the poor of the town. The generosity of these noblemen thus spared the inhabitants the cost and trouble which they would otherwise have had to encounter.

¹ Charity Commissioners' Report.

Under the new poor law, this institution has been constituted the Union Workhouse to serve not only for the poor of the parish of Tamworth, but also for those of Austrey, Canwell, Chilcote, Clifton-Campville, Croxall, Drayton-Basset, Edingale, Harlaston, Hints, Kingsbury, Middleton, Newton-Regis, Seckington, Shuttington, Statfold, and Thorpe-Constantine, in the neighbourhood. As an increase of accommodation was requisite for this purpose, a smaller building has been added.

The Workhouse stands on the west side of Ladybridge-bank, near to, but at some height above, the northern bank of the Tame. Its situation is exceedingly fine, and very airy. The old building is large and substantial, and is totally free from that gloomy and prison-like appearance so sadly characterizing places of a similar destination which have been erected in recent times. Indeed, it presents more the aspect of a well-built and good hospital, and forms a prominent object at the southern entrance of the town far from disagreeable to the sight. It was once surmounted by a wooden bell-turret, in the centre of the roof, with a clock and weather-fane; but this was removed a few years ago. Internally the rooms are spacious and very comfortable, and the arrangements appear to be made in a superior manner. The new building stands detached a little to the west. It is entirely devoid of every ornament externally; whilst the small and few windows lead to the conjecture that it is a very melancholy place. The association of such an idea with it is at once dispersed by a visit to the interior. It is then perceived that the great defects in its appearance arise only from the absence of all architectural decoration and from want of the study of effect.

THE ALMSHOUSES.

This institution was founded by Thomas Guy, citizen of London, to whom the inhabitants of Southwark are indebted for the splendid hospital which bears his name. His mother was a native of Tamworth;¹ and in the welfare of the town he took the deepest interest for the greater part of his life, and aided in the principal improvements made whilst he was connected with the place. In 1678, he bought some ground in Gun-gate, and built the Almshouses, which he fitted up for seven poor women, giving to each a weekly allowance. One of the rooms, in 1688, he assigned for the library bequeathed to the town by Mr. Rawlet. As he wished to extend his foundation, the corporation, in 1692, granted him some land north of the building, and there he erected seven additional rooms that he might be able to accommodate seven poor men. The whole cost about 200*l*.²

The charitable founder supported the institution so long as he lived, and provided an ample endowment for it afterwards. By his last will and testament,³ dated the 4th of September, 1724, he devised to John Cheatly, John Blood, Joseph Blood, Arthur Alcock, Thomas

1 Extract from the Parish Register :—

"June, 1661.

18. Married Mr. Joseph Seeley of Coventry & Mrs. Anne Guye of Tamworth."

Mrs. Guy was the daughter of William Vaughton.

2 Corporation Records.

3 See Appendix :—Note 28.

Orton, John Radford, Robert Blood, and John Osborn, his Almshouses situated partly in Gungate and partly in Schoolhouse-lane, to hold in trust that they should, from time to time, place there fourteen poor persons, men and women, inhabitants of the townships of Wilnecote, Glascote, Bolehall-street, Amington, Wigginton, or Hopwas,¹—his relations being preferred if any should offer themselves,—whom they should think proper objects of such a charity; and so often as any of them died, or were removed for misbehaviour, to place others in their stead. When any trustee should die, the survivors should choose another person to succeed him; and to prevent any legal interest in the premises from going to the heir of a surviving trustee, so often as the trustees should be reduced to two, these should convey the premises to other persons, upon the same trust. And as the masters, wardens, and commonalty of the art and mystery of Stationers, in the city of London, were bound, by a bond, dated the 3rd of February, 1717, unto the governors of the hospital of St. Thomas the Apostle in Southwark, for the payment of 125*l.* for ever, half yearly, to the testator during his life, and after his decease, to such purposes as he should direct,

¹ It will be observed that the town of Tamworth is excluded from all benefit in this institution. Thomas Guy represented the borough in parliament from 1695 to 1707. But in the latter year, the burgesses,—notwithstanding the many services of their “incomparable benefactor,” and his repeated promises that, if they would support him, he would leave his whole fortune to the town so that there should never be a pauper here,—returned an opposing candidate. The cause of Guy’s rejection is said to have been his neglect of the gastronomic propensities of his worthy, patriotic, and enlightened constituents, by whom the virtues of fasting appear to have been entirely forgotten. In the anger of the moment, he threatened to pull down the Town-hall which he had built, and to abolish the Almshouses.

The burgesses, repenting of their rash act, sent a deputation to wait upon him, with the offer of re-election in the ensuing parliament; but he rejected all conciliation. Being advanced in age, he never represented any other place. He always considered that he had been treated with great ingratitude, employed his immense fortune in enlarging St. Thomas’s hospital, Southwark, and in building and endowing another there; and he deprived the inhabitants of Tamworth of the advantage of his Almshouses here.

Mr. Guy appointed that the sum should be paid, by half-yearly payments at the feast of St. John the Baptist and the birth of our Lord God, to his executors, until the formation of the president and governors of his hospital into a corporate body, who should then receive it. Out of this, 115*l.* a-year, at the same terms, should be given to the trustees of the Almshouses, who should employ 80*l.* of it in providing for the maintenance of the alms-people, two shillings a-week being given to each, and the residue applied in the reparation of the premises, or otherwise as might be thought fit. The remaining 35*l.* should be applied by the trustees in putting out children apprentices, nursing, or such like charitable deed, of four, six, or eight poor persons of the family of the Voughtons or Woods, or proceeding therefrom, as the trustees deemed fit: and if none or not sufficient of such could be found, then of other persons as should be considered proper objects of charity.

The building is said to occupy the site of the ancient Guild-hall of St. George. It is a plain substantial building, presenting two sides of a square, with a garden behind common to the fourteen poor. Each of the alms-people occupies two rooms, having separate entrance. The front towards Gungate was rebuilt in 1827, and bears a tablet recording the foundation. The annuity of 115*l.* continues to be paid by the governors of Guy's hospital, Southwark. Out of it accumulations have been made from the savings of weekly pay during vacancies amongst the alms-people and from the money destined for repairs, which, having been from time to time invested in the funds, ultimately amounted to 1,388*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.* new four per cents. This stock was subsequently sold for

1,416*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*, which was laid out in the purchase of freehold property in the parish of St. Martin's, Birmingham, consisting of nine parcels of land and sixty new houses erected thereon, let upon building leases,—of which about 66 years now remain unexpired,—producing a ground-rent of 68*l.* 6*s.* The purchase money was 1,570*l.*, of which 153*l.* was left as a debt bearing interest at 5*l.* per cent. Thus, in 1823, the commissioners found the income of the charity increased to 183*l.* 6*s.* This had enabled the trustees to raise the weekly pay of the poor people to 3*s.* 6*d.* a-week. The 35*l.* assigned by the founder to the benefit of his poor relations was distributed to such annually, without reference to their residence, in sums varying from 5*s.* to 2*l.*; and after insurance and all other incidental expences had been paid, the surplus was laid by for augmenting the endowment.

Very lately the trustees have extended the property by the purchase of the premises called "Spinning School" mentioned in page 443. It is in contemplation to raise the amount of the weekly allowance assigned to the alms-people.

THE CHARITIES.

Of the charities which existed before the time of Edward VI., none now remain, all having been swept away with the ecclesiastical property. But since the accession of Elizabeth, private individuals have left numerous gifts in perpetuity, which constitute an important source of benefit, especially to the poor, who form the general object of them. Most of them continue to be administered at the present time; but some have been entirely or in part lost, from circumstances which have become mostly forgotten.

The gifts were generally placed in the hands of the bailiffs, ministers, or churchwardens, occasionally of persons specially appointed as trustees. After the change of the form of government of the town, under the act for the reform of municipal bodies, the charities originally intrusted to the bailiffs for distribution were, upon the petition of Shirley Palmer M.D., and James Jackson, placed under the administration of nine trustees, by an order of one of the masters of the high court of Chancery, dated the 24th of December, 1836, and confirmed by the lord chancellor on the 23rd of February following. The trustees nominated were, William Knight, John Butler, Matthew Ingle, Francis Hunter, Richard Barratt, Samuel Hanson, Shirley Palmer M.D., Robert K. Fallows, and Thomas Cox.

The sources whence we have derived our information concerning the respective charities, are the original documents themselves, or authenticated copies of them, and a manuscript book entitled "A Collection of Perpetual Gifts to the Town and Parish of Tamworth. By Samuel Langley, Minister there. 1690 :—" with continuations. We have also made use of the report of the commissioners for inquiring into charities, published in 1825.

HENRY SUCKLEY'S GIFT.

By indenture made on the 24th of July, 1564, Henry Suckley, citizen and merchant-tailor of London, a native of Tamworth, and Agnes his wife, conveyed to John Topp, his heirs and assigns for ever, after the death of the survivor of the two, a messuage called the Ram, in Watling-street, London; a messuage, garden, orchard, and dove-house, at Corbetstye, in the parish of Upminster, Essex; and a messuage called Ryseley's, in Upminster; to hold to the use and behoof of the poor inhabitants of Tamworth, and of the adjoining hamlets. John Topp should, at his cost, before the first day of November ensuing, provide one good broad Kentish woollen cloth, twenty-eight yards long or more, to be woven with three threads through, being worth 6*l.* and, sending it to Tamworth, divide it, in the presence of the bailiffs and commonalty, amongst poor householders of the town and hamlets. And before the first of November, 1565, he was to provide canvas linen cloth to the value of 6*l.* or more, to be divided into shirts, smocks, kerchiefs, or aprons, and similarly distributed. In 1566, the woollen was to be given away; in the next year, the cloth; and so alternately for ever. The sum of 13*s.* 4*d.* was to be given yearly to such preacher as should deliver a sermon on the 1st of November,

between the hours of eight and eleven in the morning, at the appointment of the dean and chapter of Lichfield ; who covenanted to select a person for such purpose that should deliver the gospel of Christ sincerely, purely, and truly. If John Topp, or the future possessors of the hereditaments, should neglect to supply the linen or woollen, he or they should pay a fine of twenty marks to the dean and chapter, for the first default, to be divided, within a month after the receipt, amongst the poor of the town and hamlets, with the consent of the bailiffs and commonalty, 13s. 4d. being reserved for the preacher: and on a second default, the dean and chapter might take full possession of the property, and hold it for the destined uses. If the dean and chapter, having possession, should neglect any part of the covenant, the bailiffs and commonalty should complain to the bishop, that he might compel them by ecclesiastical censures to fulfil their duties. But if the bishop should be negligent, they should "make humble petition, & lamentable complaint, & lowly supplication," to the lord chancellor of England to oblige the dean and chapter. And the four parties concerned made promise to each other that they would faithfully observe the conditions, "on their fidelities, faiths, & trouths to Almighty God, as they intend to be saued by the merits of Christ's death, blood, & passion, at y^e dreadfull day of judgment; when no secrets of man's deeds or acts wrought wrongfully shall be hid, but plainly and apertly opened, disclosed, & revealed, for synne & infidelity com'itted, perpetrated, & done."

This gift is still received, the sum of 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* being paid as a rent charge on two houses in Watling-street, and on a farm at Corbetstye, although the property

at the latter place originally granted to John Topp, cannot be identified. The alternate supply of cloth and linen had been abandoned long before the inquiry of the commissioners, in 1823. This gift is now at the disposal of the Charity-trustees.

PETER BRADOCK'S GIFT.

Peter Bradock, saddler, by will dated in 1594,¹ gave 6s. 8d. to the poor in Tamworth, yearly, for ever, issuing out of a messuage in Church-lane. This was to be distributed yearly on Good Friday in boulded penny bread to poor householders having a charge.

Such are the statements in Langley's book ; but a note in the same says that 13s. 4d. was the amount originally bequeathed. It seems that afterwards the house was formed into two tenements, whence, perhaps, half the sum became lost. The gift is now extinct: and the house charged with the payment cannot be identified with certainty.

RICHARD REPINGTON'S GIFT.

Richard Repington, esq., of Amington, by will dated the 20th of August, 1609, bequeathed to his brother Thomas Repington and to his nephew John, son of Thomas, 120*l.* to purchase, in fee-simple, so much lands and hereditaments, as they and their heirs should out of the rents pay 5*l.* annually to the relief of twenty poor of the parish of Tamworth. To each of the poor, was to be paid the sum of 5*s.*, at the chapel of Great Amington, upon the Friday before Christmas-day, as the donor had been accustomed to do: and 6s. 8d. was to be given to the reader of divine service in the chapel, at that time. But if any of the poor persons should be disabled from attending, they should receive their pro-

¹ He was buried at Tamworth, on the 3rd of December, 1596.

portion at their own abode. The objects of the gift should be those given to serve God and living in good name and fame; they should not be blasphemers, or drunkards, or disquiet persons, but of honest and godly conversation, to the better example of others.

No land was purchased, but 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* has been annually paid to the vicar of Tamworth by the proprietor of the land at Amington formerly belonging to the testator. The 5*l.* is distributed equally amongst the poor of Amington, Bolehall and Glascote, Tamworth, and Wigginton; those of Amington receiving it at the chapel.

JOHN WIGHTWICK'S GIFT.

John Wightwick, esq., of the Inner Temple, London, by indenture dated the 7th of April, 1620, at the request of his father William, granted to the bailiffs and commonalty of Tamworth an annuity of 10*s.*, issuing out of five lands and one headland of arable ground in Spittle-field, which he had bought of Nicholas Breton. The first payment was to begin on the feast of St. Michael next after the decease of William Wightwick, and to continue on that day for ever. The bailiffs should yearly, on Good Friday, distribute it equally amongst thirty poor of the town. For every default of payment, after twenty days from the feast,—the sum being demanded at the house then inhabited by William Wightwick,—John Wightwick, his heirs and assigns, should forfeit to the use of the poor 3*s.* 4*d.*: and the bailiffs and commonalty might enforce payment by distress.

The sum of 10*s.* is now received by the trustees appointed in 1837.

STEPHEN BAYLY'S GIFT.

Stephen Bayly, shepherd, of Tamhorn, in Staffordshire, by will, dated the 1st of May, 1620, left to the poor of Tamworth an annuity of 40*s.* for ever, out of his freehold lands at Tamhorne called Crowlake, which he bequeathed to Joan his wife for life, and then to his brother's daughter, Avice Bayly, who had married Richard Heely of Tamworth. The sum was to be paid by equal portions on the feast of St. Michael, and that of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin St. Mary.

The bailiffs were administrators of this gift; which has passed to the Charity-trustees.

THOMAS COPE'S GIFT.

Thomas Cope, yeoman, of Wigginton, by his deed of feoffment, dated the 5th of February, 1620-1, to Anticle Willington, gent.; Michael Vaughton, yeoman, of Wigginton; and other persons, gave 10*s.* a-year to ten poor people of Tamworth, to be distributed by the feoffees and their heirs, on Good Friday. Also he gave 10*s.* to be distributed by the same parties to as many poor people in the lordship of Wigginton, on the Friday before Christmas-day.

The two annuities of 10*s.* each are charged upon a close in the manor of Bolehall, the owner of which gives away the money, at pleasure.

MARGARET FINNEY'S GIFT.

Margaret Finney alias Wade, of Eddiall, in Staffordshire, by her will of the 8th of February, 1623-4, gave to the poor of Tamworth 4*l.*, the interest of which was to be distributed by the bailiffs and her executors, to the poorest householders in the parish, at 4*d.* each, upon the 23rd of December yearly. By indenture of the 19th of March, 1624-5, her executors, Thomas

Glazier, gent., of Lichfield-close, and Hugh Deakin, senior, of Chorley, having paid over the sum, transferred all their power in the disposal to the bailiffs and commonalty for ever.

How or when this gift was lost, we have not ascertained. It is not mentioned by Langley.

THOMAS CHEATLE'S GIFT.

Thomas Cheatle, gent., of Worcester, having consigned to the bailiffs and commonalty of Tamworth 104*l.*, covenanted, by indenture made on the 22nd of September, 1627, that they should hold the sum to the following uses. One hundred pounds should be let out, from time to time, for ever, on good security, at four per cent, to five or ten poor tradesmen, housekeepers, artificers, inhabiting the town, clothiers and makers of cloth of any sort, or such as should set the poor on work by using their stock being especially preferred. The money, after repayment at the end of two or three years, should be let out again in a similar manner. The 4*l.* residue of the 104*l.* for the first year, and the annual interest afterwards paid at the end of every year to the bailiffs, should be given annually on security to a baker in the town, who, every month, counting twenty-eight days to each, should deliver six dozen of good bread to twenty-four poor people of the town and parish selected by the bailiffs. The overplus of the 4*l.* and advantage of the poundage of the bread should be allowed to the person appointed to superintend the distribution of the loaves, and to keep a register-book of it. The bailiffs and commonalty agreed that if, at any time, all or any part of the money should be lost, they would supply the deficiency out of the town funds,

so that the gift might continue "wthowt dymynucon for ever to all posterytie."

In 1750, only 18*l*. remained: it is conjectured that the rest was lost through insufficient securities.¹ The deficiency was never supplied: and this sum only came to the Charity-trustees.

HENRY MICHELL'S GIFT.

Henry Michell, gent., of Tamworth, by his will made on the 22nd of May, 1629, bequeathed an annuity of 40*s.*, out of his lands and hereditaments in the town, and his barn and close adjoining to Stony-lane. Of this, 20*s.* was to be given on every Good Friday equally to forty of the poorest householders in Tamworth by his executor, after her decease by his children residing in the town, or else by the bailiffs. The other 20*s.* was to be equally divided, at the same time, between the curate and the schoolmaster. The bailiffs should have power of distress for the sum, or for any portion remaining unpaid when due.

The disposal of this gift has been committed to the Charity-trustees.

SIR JOHN FERRERS'S GIFT.

Sir John Ferrers, knight, of Walton-upon-Trent, by his will, dated the 2nd of April, 1680, bequeathed his meadow-grounds, called Highfield-meadows, at Lea, in the parish of Bradburne, Derbyshire, to sir John Rempington of Amington, sir Simon Archer, John Lisle of Moxall, and John Wightwick, and their heirs for ever, that they, after his decease, should annually pay to the bailiffs of Tamworth out of the rents and profits 10*l*.

¹ In the return made to parliament relating to the benefactions, in 1786, it was stated that all but 18*l*. was lost "in pursuance of the direction of the donor's will." We have not seen this document, so that we cannot vouch for the accuracy of this curious and obscure statement.

on or before the feast of St. Thomas. The bailiffs were, that day, to distribute the money equally and indifferently amongst twenty of the poorest householders in the town of Tamworth, not common beggars.

Sir John Ferrers' donation is now in the hands of the Charity-trustees.

GREEN'S GIFT.

The original document of this gift is not to be found, and the date is unknown. In 1660, Henry Langley, of Whittington, a very old man, certified that Green, a tanner, gave 20s. a-year to the poor of Tamworth, tied upon the house in Lichfield-street, wherein Thomas Gilbert lived, lately Mr. Rouse. Langley's grand-mother, father, and mother, paid it whilst they resided there. Samuel Langley says that Mr. Green charged upon the house which had been Mr. Rouse's, but in 1689 was Mr. Gregg's, the payment of 13s. 4d. in bread to the poor on St. Thomas' day or Good Friday.

Between 1773 and 1780, the payment was discontinued. Although the house could be identified, the commissioners, in 1823, did not think that the gift could be revived; so it is now lost.

EDWARD DRAYTON'S GIFT.

Langley says that "Edward Drayton, Vinter, gaue twenty shillings yearly to the poor of Tamworth for ever, issuing out of closes or lands in Fasely, called Gosmore & Bely's Leap."

"note. The Bayliffs of Tamworth do lease these closes for 40 shillings per annum, and payment of the Lord's Rent to Draiton Bassett: one twenty shillings of this goes to Atherston, and the other to the poor of Tamworth."

The original deed of the gift cannot be found, and nothing is known of the exact destination, except what Mr. Langley has recorded. The bailiffs acted as landlords, and, after paying 20*s.* to the parish officers of Atherstone, applied the rest to the use of the poor of the town. About 1812, Gossmore-close, previously let for 4*l.* a-year, was exchanged with sir Robert Peel for Ridge-lane close in Fazeley, containing about 3*a.*, which brought in double that amount of rent. Very nearly at the same time, Bayley's Leap, previously let at 1*l.* 1*s.* per annum, was disposed of to the Coventry canal company at a compensation rent of 1*l.* 6*s.* a-year. The sums are still applied as was formerly done by the bailiffs, by the Charity-trustees.

LORD CHESTERFIELD'S GIFT.

Philip Stanhope, first earl of Chesterfield, by indenture of the 24th of May, 1639, delivered to the bailiffs and commonalty of Tamworth 35*l.*, that, with the interest, should be provided twenty-four loaves of the coarser sort of bread, to be distributed monthly in the Church, by the appointment of the earl and his countess,¹ after their deceases by John Ferrers, esq., and after him by the bailiffs, to twenty-four inhabitants of the Warwickshire part of the town nominated by them as should have been at morning-prayer. And 12*d.* was to be given to the officer distributing the bread.

This charity is extinct. The commissioners could not learn what had become of the 35*l.* In the return made to parliament, in 1786, it was stated that the sum appeared to have been lost through bad securities.

HENRY SMITH'S GIFT.

Robert Devereux, earl of Essex and Ewe, and others

¹ Ann, widow of sir Humphry Ferrers. See p. 372.

of the surviving feoffees of Henry Smith, esq., late of Silver-street, in London, deceased,—agreeable to the powers reposed in them by several conveyances of Henry Smith dated the 20th of October, 1620, the 12th of June, 1624, and the 21st of June, 1626,—by deed of declaration of the uses of their trust, bearing date the 20th of December, 1641, gave to the churchwardens and overseers of Tamworth, Lichfield, Stafford, and Newcastle-under-Lyne, their portions of the manor of Froddeswell, in Staffordshire, for the benefit of the poor,—to Tamworth, the annual sum of 14*l.*; to Lichfield, 18*l.*; to Stafford, 14*l.*; and to Newcastle-under-Lyne, 12*l.* The directions given by Henry Smith in his deed of uses for the distribution of the sums were these. The churchwardens and overseers, before meddling with the receipt of the rent, should be bound in double the value of the sum to the vicar of the parish, to collect and bestow the same according as was ordered; the vicar should certify the obligation uncanceled to the executors and feoffees: and in default, the parish should lose the gift for that time. The churchwardens and overseers were to distribute the money for the relief of aged poor and infirm people, married persons having more children born in lawful wedlock than their labours could maintain, poor orphans, poor people that kept themselves and their families to labour, putting forth poor children as apprentices, marrying poor maids, keeping a stock to set the poor to work; and not to any given to excessive drinking, whoremongers, common swearers, pilferers, or otherwise notoriously scandalous, or to any incorrigible persons, disobedient servants, vagrant persons, or such as have no constant dwelling, receive inmates to live with them,

or have not inhabited the parish for five years preceding the distribution, or to any persons refusing to work, labour, and take pains. The churchwardens and overseers should, once every month at least, upon the Sabbath, after evening prayer, meet in the Church, in order to consider the state of the poor, and who most needed relief; and between Easter and Whitsuntide, they should openly in the Church, after evening prayer, on a Sabbath,—notice having been given at the end of the morning prayer preceding,—make an account, in a fairly written book, of all receipts and disbursements in the past year. The account should be read in the Church on the next Sabbath, after morning prayer; a copy of which should be affixed to a table on the wall of the Church, in some convenient place, there to remain for fourteen days, so that it might be publicly read, and exceptions taken if there should be just cause, in order to make amendments. This or another copy should be, within ten days after the fortnight, delivered to the vicar, and others to the executors and feoffees. If the churchwardens and overseers should fail in the performance of any of these directions, the poor should lose the gift for one year, and it should then go to Christ's hospital, in London. The money given to impotent and aged poor should be distributed in apparel of one colour, with some badge that the same might be known to be the gift of Henry Smith; or else in bread and flesh or fish upon each Sabbath, publicly in the Church.

The manor of Froddeswell was purchased by the earl of Essex and the other feoffees, with part of the personal estate of Henry Smith. The annual sum of 14*l*. is now received by the churchwardens of Tamworth,

from the right hon. sir Robert Peel, bart., as a rent-charge upon his manor of Drayton-Basset.

SIR FRANCIS NETHERSOLE'S GIFT.

Sir Francis Nethersole, who died in 1659, by a codicil to his will, appointed, at the request of Thomas Fox, that 5*l.* should be paid yearly to the schoolmaster of Tamworth, on condition that children of Polesworth and Wareton desirous of learning the Latin and Greek tongues,—so that they did not exceed six at one time, and were approved by his trustees,—should be taught those languages at the Grammar School as freely as any of the town.

This sum is received by the Charity-trustees from the treasurer of sir Francis Nethersole's charity, at Polesworth.

RICHARD VAUGHTON'S GIFT.

Richard Vaughton, yeoman, of Tamworth, by his will dated the 28th of August, 1665, bequeathed to the bailiffs and commonalty and their successors 40*s.*, to be paid yearly out of his pasture called Gorsty-Perrycrofts, in Bolehall, on Candlemas-day; with power of entry and distress to the bailiffs and commonalty, in case of default. They were to distribute the sum amongst the poor of the town, within eight days after the payment, at the direction of his executors, and of his four trustees named during their lives; and after the decease of all, by the bailiffs of Tamworth.

The Charity-trustees now receive and distribute the money.

WILLIAM ASHLEY'S GIFT.

William Ashley, gent., of Spinkefield, Essex, a native of Tamworth, by his will, dated the 24th of July, 1666, bequeathed towards the maintenance of the master, of

the Free Grammar School, the annual rent of 10*l.* out of his lands called Jenkin-Malden, in Essex. The first payment was to be made twelve months after the decease of his wife, and was then to continue for ever.

The annuity is still received.

KATHERINE BUDD'S GIFT.

Katherine Budd, widow, by will, signed on the 17th of May, 1667, bequeathed to William Cornish, Joseph Batman, James Trubshaw, and Nicholas Parker,—her executors and overseers,—all her lands in Baxterley, which she had purchased of Edward Swinfen, of Bad-desley. Her executors and their heirs should set the premises to the best advantage, and deliver the profits, as they became due, to the minister of the Church of Tamworth, to serve for his better maintenance and encouragement. But if this gift should be looked upon as mortmain, the premises should remain to her executors and overseers, and their heirs.

The value of the donation is stated, on one of the tablets in the Church, to have been five shillings a-year, in 1726. There is no mention of it in the return to parliament concerning charities, in 1786, or in the commissioners' report of 1825.

RICHARD BEARDSLEY'S GIFT.

Richard Beardsley, gent., of Tamworth, by his will, dated the 1st of June, 1669, bequeathed to Samuel Langley, then minister, and to Nicholas Parker, and their heirs, a cottage and garden in Tamworth, with 40*l.* to purchase more lands, upon trust, that, supposing the rents should amount to 6*l.* per annum, they should pay to the minister, poor, and schoolmaster severally 40*s.* a-year, as the rents became due; but each of the three

parties should bear equally the increase or decrease of the income.

The trustees with the 40*l.* purchased Further Kettlebrook-close, in Wilnecote.

ELIZABETH BEARDSLEY'S GIFT.

Elizabeth Beardsley, widow of Richard, by will, dated the 13th of September, 1670, left to Samuel Langley and Nicholas Parker 10*l.* to be laid out with the 40*l.* bequeathed by her late husband, the whole of the profits to be given solely to the poor, as Richard Beardsley had directed the 40*s.* to be distributed.

The trustees purchased the Nearer Kettlebrook-close.

This gift and the previous one are now amalgamated; and no distinction is known between the two Kettlebrook-closes. There is no cottage in Tamworth attributed to these charities, but the two houses assigned to the next gift are conjectured to have belonged to them. The close containing 2*a.* 38*p.*, at the time of the enquiry of the commissioners, was let at the annual rent of 6*l.* 6*s.* For a portion of the land of 1*r.* 33*p.*, the Coventry canal company, who had taken it, paid a compensation of 1*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* The vicar and town-clerk have always acted as trustees, making equal division of the sums, the part for the poor being distributed by the minister and churchwardens.

JOHN VAUGHTON'S GIFT.

John Vaughton, known in his life-time as "Whistling John," left by will, in 1683, a croft in Gungate, the rent to be equally divided between the minister, school-master, and poor children of Tamworth to set them to work or apprentice.

The property considered to be attached to this gift, consists of Chamberlain's croft of about half an acre, two

houses in Spinningschool-lane, and Barber's croft of about $1\frac{1}{2}a.$ adjoining to Gungate. It is probable that a part belonged to some other charity. In 1795, the property was divided, the minister taking Chamberlain's croft, and the schoolmaster Barber's croft, the two houses being assigned to the churchwardens for the poor. But they were again united, and placed under the management of the churchwardens.

When the commissioners made their enquiries, the crofts were let for 13*l.* a-year, and the two houses for 5*l.* 4*s.* After deducting 8*s.* 6*d.* for land-tax and stamps, the money was divided equally amongst those for whom it was destined.

SIR HENRY GOUGH'S GIFT.

Sir Henry Gough, *knt.*, of Perry-hall, in Staffordshire, by indentures of the 19th and 20th of July, 1686, purchased of Richard Weaman twelve lands and two headlands lying together in Flaxhill-field, in Wigginton, called Hungerhill. And by indentures of the 19th and 20th of October following, he conveyed the same to sir Edward Littleton, *bart.*, and Mr. Devereux Littleton, and their heirs, to dispose of the rents and profits for the poor of Tamworth, to be distributed on St. Thomas' day, every year, after the next ensuing feast of that saint. If there should be failure after that day, the bailiffs, churchwardens, and overseers of the poor, might make the distribution.

By award of the commissioners under the act for enclosing the open fields in the manor of Comberford and Wigginton or prebends of Wigginton and Coton, dated the 19th of April, 1771, there was allotted to Stanford Wolverstan, *esq.*, who had married the heiress of Devereux Littleton, an enclosure of 2*a.* 3*r.* 22*p.*;

the profits of which are now distributed, according to the direction of the donor, by his grandson, Stanley Pipe Wolverstan, esq., of Statfold-hall.

REV. JOHN RAWLET'S GIFT.

John Rawlet,¹ clerk, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, by will, dated the 23rd of September, 1686, bequeathed to his mother, Mrs. Margaret Rice, a messuage in Church-lane which he had bought of Henry Davis, yielding a rent of 3*l.*; also a messuage and lands purchased of George Wright, and yielding annually about 10*l.* 5*s.*, for her natural life. To Mistress Anne Butler, of Newcastle, he gave for life all the lands and messuages in the parish of Tamworth, purchased of George Sadler, and then leased for 10*l.* 10*s.* a-year. After their deceases, he bequeathed the same to his father-in-law William Rice, Samuel Langley, Nicholas Parker, and Joseph Batman, their heirs and assigns for ever, upon trust that they should dispose of the profits to the following uses. To Mrs. Hannah White, 6*l.* a-year should be given, if she were not competently provided for; to the minister of the Church, 4*l.*, half to be given on Good Friday and half on the 5th of November, if he should preach a sermon on each of those days; to the school-master of Tamworth, 40*s.* for ever; for putting out two boys yearly to some trade, 8*l.*; for instructing ten poor children of the town in English, 40*s.*; and what remained should be distributed, as far as it would go, on Good Friday, 12*d.* a-piece, to the poorest families of the town. After the death of Hannah White, 4*l.* of her annuity should be applied in apprenticing another poor boy yearly; and the 40*s.* residue should buy ten

¹ The history of this clergyman is singular. He signed his will on the Thursday, being "in perfect health & soundness of body & minde;" on Saturday, he married Anne Butler; but on the Monday following, the 27th of September, he was dead.

bibles every year, to be given to the ten poor scholars when they could read them, or to any other poor family that would make use of them. Moreover, if the minister and schoolmaster should think his books worthy of acceptance, and would fix them in some room belonging to the School or other convenient place, that they might be preserved for the use of the succeeding schoolmasters and scholars, and might serve as an encouragement to others to make additions, so that there might be a public library for the benefit of scholars in the town, he freely bestowed all his books upon the School: otherwise he gave them to Margaret Rice and Anne Butler, to dispose of them as they pleased. And the testator directed that, upon the death of any trustee, the survivors should, within six or seven months, make choice of another, the original number not being exceeded, and settle the premises on themselves and those chosen, from time to time: and they should allow themselves all necessary charges out of the property.

In the course of years, the property belonging to this charity became greatly augmented. In 1818, the premises were as follows. In Tamworth,—two houses with gardens of 11*p.* each, in Church-lane, erected on the site of three old ones comprised in the will, in 1809, at an expense of 240*l.*; and three messuages, one with a garden of 9*p.*, in Gungate, which, by indentures of lease and release, dated the 19th and 20th of June, 1797, were conveyed by sir Robert Peel and his trustee William Yates to the trustees of John Rawlet, in exchange for two small messuages and garden-ground in the same street belonging to the charity: in the lordship of Wigginton,—lands allotted under the enclosure act for those named in the will, which were the Slang

of 2a. 4p., Windmill-close of 4a. 17p., Ball's close of 6a. 20p., the Biddens of 4a. 1r. 17p., the same of 4a. 1r. 32p., and Robin Hood's butt of 4a. 2r. 21p.: in the lordship of Bolehall and Glascote,—Poors' close of 2a. 3r., land taken by the Coventry canal company of 1r. 4p., garden ground of 40p., and Glascote-close of 3a. 19p. awarded to the trustees under agreement of the 9th of December, 1808, between the proprietor of, and persons interested in, the open field and other lands, in lieu of selions of land dispersed over them. The whole brought in a rent of 109*l.* 11*s* 6*d.*

The utility of this charity extended with the property. The number of apprentices put out every year was increased to three and then to four; and, in 1815, it was agreed to give 8*l.* with each, instead of 4*l.* The ten poor girls have been taught reading and needle-work by a mistress, who at first received 2*l.* as an annual salary, increased, in 1800, to 4*l.*, and, in 1815, to 5*l.* A sum is now paid to the National School for the free education of such. An additional school was begun about 1802, for the instruction of twelve boys, a master being appointed with 13*l.* a-year for his trouble, until it was raised to 20*l.*, in 1815. The boys, chosen by the trustees at about ten years of age, are taught for about three years, when they may be apprenticed, usually by the aid of this charity. The number of bibles prescribed in the will has been distributed. From 1802, the sum of 10*l.*, and from 1815, 15*l.* has been annually given to sixty of the poorest families in the town.

Mr. Rawlet's library was accepted by the minister and schoolmaster. Thomas Guy gave a room in his Almshouses for their reception, which was fitted up, in 1688, for the purpose, at a cost of 10*l.* 19*s* 4*d.* raised

by public subscription. Two rooms, it seems, were subsequently used. The present schoolmaster, a few years ago, with the concurrence of the vicar, removed the library to the Grammar School. A portrait of the donor is preserved there.

WILLIAM SYMOND'S GIFT.

William Symond, mercer, of Atherstone, in Warwickshire, bequeathed, in 1687, by will, all his enclosed lands at Twycross, in Leicestershire, which he had bought of Henry Budley, and three closes there bought of John Wheewell, producing an annual rent of 14*l.*; also the yearly sum of 5*l.* paid out of several grounds in Mancetter, occupied by Mrs. Hester Thornton, in lieu of tithes charged upon them: which sums of 14*l.*, or so much as could be raised for the grounds at Twycross, and 5*l.* should be employed yearly, after his death, in apprenticing to good and lawful trades the children of poor men in Atherstone, Tamworth, and Nuneaton, such as could read the bible, and whose parents received no monthly collection from the towns. The apprentices on being put forth should have a bible and one of the assembly's catechisms of the larger sort bought out of the money for them by the churchwardens or overseers of the towns. The income, as it became due, should be annually received by the churchwardens or overseers of Atherstone, and should be equally divided into three parts, and the due proportions sent to the churchwardens of Nuneaton and Tamworth, to be employed for the uses expressed, all charges and necessary expences of the collecting and receiving being first deducted.

The value of this charity is now more than doubled, producing, in 1823, 14*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* paid to the church-

wardens of Tamworth by those of Atherstone, to be appropriated according to the donor's will. Bibles and catechisms have not been usually given.

ANN OSBURN'S GIFT.

Mrs. Anne Osburn, widow, of the George Inn, in this town, by will, bearing date the 7th of November, 1688, bequeathed to the bailiffs and their successors, 5*l.*, the interest to be employed, for ever, towards buying materials, or in some other good way, to set poor children to work in the Spinning-school. The interest should be disposed of as Mr. Langley and Mr. Nicholas Parker should approve as the most likely to perpetuate so useful and good a work; and, after their deceases, by the bailiffs and their successors for ever. But if the School should not continue, the interest should be given to the poor of Tamworth in bread, in the Church, after morning prayer, on the Sunday before Christmas-day yearly.

The gift is united with that of Elizabeth Michell following.

REBECCA MICHELL'S GIFT.

By will dated the 9th of April, 1689, Rebecca Michell bequeathed to the poor of the borough of Tamworth 50*l.*, to be paid, by her executor, within twelve months after her decease, to Mr. Langley or his successor in the ministry, to be set forth at interest in safe hands. The proceeds yearly should be distributed by the minister and churchwardens amongst the poor inhabitants of the borough.

This 50*l.* was laid out, with lady Clobury's gift, in the purchase of lands, and a third of the rents appropriated to the intentions of Rebecca Michell.

ELIZABETH MICHELL'S GIFT.

Elizabeth Michell, younger sister of Rebecca, by will dated the 19th of August, 1690, gave 50*l.* to the poor of the parish of Tamworth.

This sum was equally divided between the town and the hamlets, and the portion assigned to the latter distributed by the churchwardens or overseers amongst the poor. The other 25*l.*, with the 5*l.* left by Ann Osburn, and 5*l.* two years' interest on the gift of Rebecca Michell, was laid out in the purchase of a piece of ground in Beckmore-meadow of 1*a.* 1*r.* 20*p.*, in the lordship of Wigginton, which Nicholas Parker conveyed to the bailiffs and commonalty, by indentures of lease and release made on the 18th and 19th of March, 1691-2, in trust, to apply the rents and profits as was most agreeable to the wills of Elizabeth Michell and Ann Osburn,—six parts to be disposed of yearly by the bailiffs and churchwardens pursuant to the directions of the former donor, and the remaining seventh, according to the desires of the latter. This land, then let for 27*s.* 6*d.* a-year was, by indenture of the 1st of August, 1758, exchanged with Samuel Beardsley for some ground in Broad-meadow, Wigginton, of 1*a.*, but bringing in a rent of 30*s.*, and lying nearer to the town than Beckmore-meadow.

The land belonging to the united gifts, now held by the Charity-trustees, is a close in Wigginton of 1*a.* 11*p.* assigned under the Wigginton enclosure act of 1771, and let for about 5*l.* yearly.

ELIZABETH WELCH'S GIFT.

Elizabeth Welch, widow, by her will, dated the 1st of February, 1692-3, bequeathed to the bailiffs and their successors 10*l.*, to purchase land or set out to interest;

and with the profits, as they came in, to buy English bibles and distribute them amongst such poor of Tamworth as would be likely to make the best use of them. After those wanting bibles should have been supplied, the profits should be laid out to help to apprentice poor children, or for bread to be distributed to the poor of Tamworth in the Church, or to uses most advantageous to the poor. And the donor desired Mr. Langley and Mr. Nicholas Parker to see her gift carefully executed, so long as either lived.

This charity is lost.

SAMUEL LANGLEY'S GIFT.

Lamuel Langley, clerk, of Bolehall, by will dated the 4th of September, 1693, bequeathed to the bailiffs and commonalty 5*l.*, the interest to go to assist the Workhouse-school for poor children, if needed; but if the School should fail, to the poor of the town, to be distributed yearly by the bailiffs.

The gift is lost.

LADY CLOBURY'S GIFT.

Dame Ann Clobury, in 1698, placed in the hands of Samuel Collins, minister of Tamworth, and of Nicholas Parker, 100*l.*, to be laid out in lands which should be conveyed in trust to Charles Holt, baronet, of Aston, near Birmingham, to George Alsop, and to themselves. The profits should be distributed for the relief of poor decayed housekeepers, and also widowers and widows within the town of Tamworth, such who had been labourious in their lives, and of honest conversation and good report, but by old age, sickness, lameness, great charge of children, or extraordinary losses, should have been brought to poverty; but not to common beggars, or such as received weekly allowance constantly

from the town; nor should any family or person receive above 10s. in one year. And if convenient, once in seven years, half of the rents should be expended to buy English bibles for distribution amongst poor families and persons of the town not able to obtain such, who should be likely to make the best use of them. When any two of the four trustees should be dead, then those remaining should, within three months, grant the premises the use of themselves and two others; of whom the heir male of sir Charles Holt,¹ and the minister of Tamworth should always be two.

Lady Clobury's gift of 100*l.* and Rebecca Michell's gift of 50*l.* were united in one purchase. By indentures of lease and release dated the 1st and 2nd of September, in the same year, Samuel Collins and Nicholas Parker conveyed the premises which they had bought,—stated to have been, a messuage, a bay and a half of barning at the end of the barn next the messuage, a cow-house adjoining the bay of barning, two sheds next the barn used as swine-sties, eight ridges of land and one hemp-leek in the Over-field, ten other ridges of land in the Nether-field, twelve more in the same field, and several parcels of meadow called Broad-moor and Hell-rood, in Hollymoor-meadow, all situated in Glascote,—to Edward Symonds and Edward Bradgate, to the use of sir Charles Holt, George Alsop, and of themselves, and their heirs, upon trust that they should yearly employ two-thirds of the rents and profits of the premises in the manner prescribed by lady Clobury, and permit the vicar and churchwardens to dispose of the other third as Rebecca Michell had directed.

In 1823, the lands belonging to these charities con-

¹ The male line is now extinct.

sisted of a house divided into two tenements, let for 1*l.* 10*s.* each; two fields of 7*a.* 24*p.* allotted to the trustees on the enclosure of Glascote, in 1811, in lieu of the lands dispersed in the open fields, let at an annual rent of 20*l.*; a field of 1*a.* 3*r.* 7*p.* allotted on the enclosure of Glascote, in lieu of common right, and let for 3*l.*; and 1*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* paid by the Coventry canal company for land of 1*a.* 19*p.* taken by them in 1787. The third appropriated to Rebecca Michell's charity, being divided into three parts between the minister and two churchwardens, was distributed by them as they saw occasion.

WALTER ASHMORE'S GIFT.

Walter Ashmore, gent., by his will dated the 8th of September, 1701, bequeathed to the bailiffs, minister, and churchwardens, and their successors, two cottages in Gungate, on the Staffordshire side, to hold for ever to these uses. They should pay to the churchwardens 5*s.* a-year for setting the cottages, taking the profits, and entering the same in their book of accounts; 12*d.* to be spent by the bailiffs, minister, and churchwardens on the meeting, every half-year, to dispose of the same; and the residue to be given to the poorest widows and families in Tamworth, not receiving common contribution, by 12*d.* each, every half-year. The churchwardens should register in their book the names of such widows and families, that those who did not receive the sum one year might the next. No distribution of the rents should be made except by the parties named, of whom the minister should be one.

The cottages having fallen into decay, a lease of the land was granted by the minister and churchwardens, for ninety-nine years, from the 25th of March, 1771, at

the annual rent of 13s., the lessee covenanting to build two new cottages.

SAMUEL PORT'S GIFT.

Samuel Port,, joiner or lorrimer, of London, by his will dated the 24th of July, 1705, gave to Joseph Stone, citizen and grocer of London, 400*l.*, upon trust that he should, after the testator's death, with the approbation of his wife, lay out the sum to purchase lands in or near Tamworth, in fee-simple, and settle the same upon five or more good and able persons of the town nominated by Joseph Stone, and their heirs and assigns for ever: upon trust that they should permit his wife Anne Port to take the rents. And, after her decease, they should permit the minister and two bailiffs to receive the issues; who should apply the whole, except 20*s.*, for apprenticing in London to some honest trade, two poor boys born in Tamworth. Of the 20*s.*, one half was to be spent yearly in a dinner or other accommodation for the managers of the charity, and the other half to be paid to the minister, to read his will in relation to the gift, and to preach a sermon once a-year. But if the bailiff and ministers should neglect to perform the will, then the profits of the estate might be demanded by the minister and churchwardens of St. Mary Somerset, London, to be employed in a similar manner.

The legacy was laid out in the purchase of lands at Amington and Stonydelph, Hopley close, the Nether-close, four acres in Stonydelph field, and a piece of

1 This person, it is said, was a foundling, being discovered deserted in the porch of Tamworth-Church. He was brought up at the expense of the parish, and received the name of Porch, which he afterwards converted into Port. He was apprenticed to a joiner; and, being successful in life, he left this gift to the town as a return for the kindness which he had experienced.

land in Far meadow. These were surveyed in 1821, and then stated to be as follows:—Pleck, on the south side of the Coventry canal, of 7*p.* used as a garden; a barn, fold, and rick-yard of 1*r.* 17*p.*; the Philly-moor of 11*a.* 1*p.*; Amington-meadow of 3*r.* 30*p.*; lower and upper Hopley closes of 5*a.* 1*r.* 9*p.*; Rotter's field of 3*a.* 1*r.* 38*p.*; the Segs or Stonydelph-flat of 3*a.* 3*r.* 37*p.* These were let, in 1823, for 45*l.* The Coventry canal company paid 1*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* a-year for land of 2*r.* 10*p.* taken out of Hopley-close. Owing to unapplied surplus of income, there was then belonging to this charity 1,364*l.* 15*s.* three per cent consols, in the names of the trustees, and 50*l.* placed on the security of the tolls of the Tamworth turnpike road, at five per cent, making a total income of 88*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* A premium of 40*l.* was given with each apprentice; but it was found difficult, even for that sum, to procure good masters.

ANN WILLINGTON'S GIFT.

Ann Willington, by will, in 1711, bequeathed 40*l.*, the interest to be given to the poor of the town, by the minister and churchwardens.

This gift is extinct, as the sum was lost by the insolvency of the vicar, the rev. George Antrobus, when he died in 1724.

THOMAS WILLINGTON'S GIFT.

On the tablet of 1726 in the Church, it is recorded that Thomas Willington, gent., gave the interest of 5*l.* to the poor of the town. This is all we have found concerning the gift; which has been long lost.

THOMAS BLOOD'S GIFT.

Thomas Blood, by will, dated the 14th of January, 1724, bequeathed to Thomas Mousley and four others 100*l.*, in trust, to place the same out and pay the

interest to his aunt, the wife of Joseph Blood, during her life; and after her death, either to the under-curate of Tamworth, or to any other charitable uses they should think fit. He also bequeathed to the same persons an additional 100*l.*, to be placed out in the same manner, and the interest paid yearly to twenty poor housekeepers of the borough of Tamworth, not receiving weekly pay. And the testator required of the trustees that, after the death of any of them, they should choose another in his stead.

With the two sums, was purchased a close called the Perrycroft containing 3*a.* 3*r.* 20*p.*, in the liberty of Bolehall; which, in 1823, produced an annual rent of 16*l.* The land-tax was redeemed, in 1799, for 16*l.* 4*s.* 7½*d.*

CHRISTIAN ORTON'S GIFT.

Mrs. Christian Orton, by will, in 1736, left 20*l.*, the interest to be given annually to six poor widows of Tamworth.

The money was lent to the trustees of the Tamworth turnpike roads: and the master of the Grammar School has always received and applied the charity, by what authority does not appear, as no copy of the will exists in Tamworth.

EARL OF NORTHAMPTON'S GIFT.

Of the institution of this charity, we have spoken in our account of the Workhouse. The premises, no longer used for the poor, were let, and the rent distributed by the minister, bailiffs, and town-clerk, to the poor in the borough of Tamworth and liberty of the Castle.

MRS. HARCOURT'S GIFT.

Mrs. Harcourt, by will, the date of which is unknown, but which must have been between 1726 and 1786,

gave an annuity of 1*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*, charged upon lands at Fillongley, to the bailiffs, to be by them distributed in coals and bread amongst twenty poor widows of Tamworth, on St. Thomas' day.

This gift is now in the hands of the Charity-trustees.

MARQUIS OF BATH'S GIFT.

An annuity of 10*l.* is received, on Old St. Thomas' day, from the bankers of the marquis of Bath, and paid in equal portions to two school-mistresses, for teaching eight young children to read and knit.

The origin of this charity, and the property in respect of which it is paid, are unknown. It has been imagined that it might possibly have been founded by Thomas viscount Weymouth, in 1686. This, however, we do not believe, as the gift would certainly have been then known to Langley. It is not mentioned in the tablets placed in the Church, or in the return to parliament in 1786.

ELIZABETH BEARDSLEY'S GIFT.

Elizabeth Beardsley, widow, by will, dated the 20th of October, 1772, bequeathed 50*l.* which her late husband had lent, on the 3rd of July, 1760, to the trustees of the road leading from Tamworth to Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and from Sawrey-ferry to Swarcliff-lane, upon the credit of the tolls, which belonged to her as executrix and residuary legatee; also two sums of 25*l.* each lent by her, on the 5th of May and 21st of October, 1761, to the trustees of certain roads in the counties of Derby, Leicester, and Warwick, and amongst them of one from Tamworth to Fieldon or Feland-bridge and from thence to Measham, secured on the tolls; with all interest which might be due at her decease, to the bailiffs and their successors, in trust, that they, either continuing

the same securities, or calling in the sums for reinvestment or purchase of freehold property, should expend the profits in bread, to be distributed in the Church, amongst poor housekeepers of Tamworth, every Whitsunday and Christmas day, as they should think proper. And she willed that the interest due at her decease should be disposed of amongst poor housekeepers, as the bailiffs should deem fit.

At a meeting of the commissioners of the roads held on the 27th of November, 1781, 35*l.* due on the 10th of October, 1778, for the two sums of 25*l.* each was added to the principal, making 85*l.* secured upon the tolls. The executor of Mrs. Beardsley assigned all the securities to the bailiffs, on the 6th of June, 1782.

This gift is now administered by the Charity-trustees.

ELIZABETH MATTHEWS' GIFT.

Mrs. Elizabeth Matthews, by deed poll of the 9th of November, 1786, gave to George Godfrey, and, after his decease, to the churchwardens, an assignment of the tolls on the Tamworth turnpike road, for securing 20*l.*; that out of the interest they should pay to the minister 10*s.* on the 5th of January yearly, for reading prayers and the communion-service, and preaching in the Church on that day; 5*s.* to John Scott, parish-clerk, and after his death, 2*s.* 6*d.* to his successors; 2*s.* 6*d.* to the organist; and the residue to purchase bread for distribution in the Church, on the same day yearly, amongst such poor widows of the borough as should attend the service in the Church: with power to alter the securities.

The interest of the money is applied as directed; but the payments are made on Midlent Sunday, no congregation attending on the 5th of January.

MARY DONES' GIFT.

By indenture, dated the 24th of June, 1788, Mrs. Mary Dones assigned to Thomas Bradley Paget and George Godfrey 50*l.* lent by her to the trustees under an act, 10 Geo. III., for repairing and widening the roads leading through the borough of Tamworth, and others in the counties of Stafford, Warwick, and Derby, upon security of an assignment of tolls; the interest to be paid to the committee appointed to manage the Sunday-schools in Tamworth, in aid of the contributions for the support of them. But if, from any cause, there should not be a Sunday-school in Tamworth for poor children supported by voluntary subscriptions, then the interest should be disposed of to educate so many poor children of the borough, either boys or girls, whose parents should have legal settlement here, as the profits of the 50*l.* would suffice for. After the death of Mr. Paget and Mr. Godfrey, the sum and security should be transferred to the master of the Grammar School and the churchwardens, upon the same trusts: with power to change the security.

The trust was thus transferred by indenture dated the 5th of August, 1819.

Mary Dones also, by her will, dated the 24th of July, 1795, gave to Thomas Willington 60*l.* to pay the same to the master of the Grammar School and to the churchwardens, who should put the sum out to interest, and from the produce pay to the minister 10*s.* on the 1st of January, every year, to preach a sermon in the Church on that day, occasionally explaining therein the nature and design of baptism, that poor people might be rightly informed of its use and importance, and to purchase bread with the residue and distribute it in the Church,

on the same day, amongst the poor attending the whole of the service, principal regard being paid to the aged and those having large families. If the minister should not preach the sermon, the 10s. should be distributed with the remainder of the interest.

Mrs. Dones, moreover, bequeathed to Thomas Willington 100*l.* which she had lent on an assignment of the tolls of the Tamworth turnpike roads, to pay the interest to her tenant, Jenny Baker, during her natural life: and after her death, to transfer the sum and security to the master of the Grammar School and churchwardens, who should apply the interest either in putting out children of the poor inhabitants as apprentices, or in such manner as they should think proper for the benefit of the poor of the borough.

The legacy of 60*l.* was invested in the purchase of 100*l.* three per cent consols. The time of distribution was altered to Midlent Sunday, on account of the want of a congregation on New-year's day, and the distribution of the bread was made by orders given to bakers, because of the creation of some disturbance in the Church, from the number of the poor. The annuitant, Jenny Baker, died about 1824.

MARY WILSON'S GIFT.

Mrs. Mary Wilson, who died in April, 1805, bequeathed 200*l.* to the vicar and churchwardens, to distribute part in money amongst poor housekeepers residing in the borough, as they should think proper. The remainder of the sum was to be applied for the benefit of such other poor persons residing in the borough as the vicar and churchwardens might deem the greatest objects of charity, by providing them with bibles, bedding, provisions, or other necessities; also in putting

out poor children of the borough apprentices to some useful trade, under sober masters of good character.

The sum of 164*l.*, the remainder having been distributed to the poor in clothes and bedding, was invested, on the 19th of January, 1808, in the purchase of 200*l.* four per cent stock; and the interest is employed in apprenticing boys.

JOSEPH KNIGHT'S GIFT.

Mr. Joseph Knight, by his will, dated the 14th of March, 1829, gave the sum of 100*l.* to be invested in government or other real securities, in England, in the name of the bailiffs of the borough of Tamworth, that they, and their successors for ever, should receive the interest and distribute it in equal proportions amongst ten decayed housekeepers of the borough of Tamworth, such as had been principals in business and were most deserving: the same to be paid in money on the day immediately preceding the old market.

Mr. Knight died in 1838; and the municipal corporation act having displaced the bailiffs, the sum was invested in the 3 per cent consols, in the names of Robert Fowler, John Hall, and Mary Godwin Hall, who regularly pay over the interest to the Mayor for the time being, to distribute amongst the ten parties described, in sums of 6*s.* 8*d.* each.

THE TOWN HALL.

There were anciently in Tamworth two public Halls, which were appropriated to the use of the governing bodies of the town. One situated nearly at the top of Lichfield-street, served for the Staffordshire part; the other, in Market-street, for the Warwickshire side. After Elizabeth had granted her charter of incorporation to the inhabitants, the latter fell at length into disuse. From the reign of Charles I., the other was let out by the corporation, from time to time, to different private individuals, who converted it to various uses; a room, it seems, serving, when needed, for public purposes. But, in 1700, it was granted on a lease of ninety-nine years at an annual rent of 32s. to Richard Russell, on condition that he should, within one year, pull the whole down, and erect a good and substantial brick house in the place. In the indenture, dated the 11th of November, the Hall, with a garden and orchard, is described as being situated on the south side of Lichfield-street, adjoining the messuage of Richard Weaman on the east side, that of John Banks on the west, and abutting on the orchard of the right hon. lord viscount Weymouth.¹

The only clue we have hitherto found directing us to the situation of the Warwickshire Hall, is an inden-

¹ Indenture, 1700.

ture, dated the 21st of September, 1604, witnessing that Francis Freckleton had sold to sir Humphry Ferrers a messuage in Market-street, between the Town-hall on the east side and the street-way leading out of Tamworth towards Lady-bridge on the west.¹ The edifice, therefore, would appear to have been where part of the King's Arms Hotel now stands.

The destruction of the Staffordshire Hall was consequent upon the offer of Mr. Thomas Guy, the founder of the Almshouses, to build, at his own expense, a new edifice in the Market-place, for the use of the corporation. So liberal and generous a proposal on the part of their parliamentary representative, was eagerly accepted by the bailiffs and commonalty. In order that the new Town-hall might stand unattached in the middle of the Market-place, they made several exchanges of property for the houses adjacent to the intended site. Lord viscount Weymouth gave a piece of ground with a shop, which he directed to be pulled down and the materials sold for the benefit of the poor. The building of the Town-hall was commenced in 1701, and completed by the summer of the ensuing year.²

The edifice thus erected by Mr. Guy consisted of a room of considerable dimensions, supported by three rows of large pillars of stone with semicircular arches, each row containing six pillars. The ascent to the room stood at the east end: and the space below was destined as a place wherein to hold the weekly market. In the centre of the roof, was placed a large wooden glazed lantern, with a weather fane; leading out upon a platform defended until lately by balustrades.

The existence of only a single room in the Town-hall,

¹ Indenture 2 Jac. 1.

² Corporation Records.

was soon found inconvenient for the many purposes to which the building might occasionally be granted, as concerts, or public exhibitions. In 1771, two new rooms were added at the east end, at an expense of upwards of 270*l.* raised by subscription. These, however, on account of their small dimensions, did not wholly serve to supply the deficiency; and, in 1811, it was determined to remove them, and erect two more of a larger and more convenient size. Towards this plan, the late sir Robert Peel munificently contributed 500*l.*, to which the corporation added 240*l.*, on the completion of the alterations in 1812. The enlargement comprised not only the building of the rooms, but also the addition of an underground dungeon beneath them. John Robins, esq., at the same time, added a clock in front, for the public benefit.

The space beneath the large room occupied for the market was enclosed, in 1835.

In the present year, another alteration has been made. The two rooms have been lengthened eastwards, the last bay of the space appropriated to the market-people, which had been built up, re-opened, and an entrance formed upon the south side; so that there is not only an increase of space for the accommodation of the market, but an addition to the size of the rooms.

The Town-hall exhibits no particular pretensions to architectural beauty. It is a substantial edifice, the old part being built of brick, with stone dressings, the new, entirely of brick. It is large and very convenient, being the only building in the town suited to public purposes. The dungeon is small, but dry and clean. Prisoners committed for trial are usually removed to the jails in the county-towns, with very little delay.

THE BRIDGES.



BOLEBRIDGE AND ANKER VIADUCT.

Leland, during the reign of Henry VIII., says "Of the 2 Bridges that be at Tamworth, the Fayrer is Bowe-bridge, though it stande on Anker, a lesse River then Tame; and it is as it were towards the North East End of the Towne, in the waye to Polesworth and Nuneaton. The other Bridge is called St. Mary Bridge, havinge 12 great Arches, and leadeth to Coventrye. It standeth on Tame, hard beneath the Confluence, and a litle beneath the Castle, and as it should seeme by a great stone upon the Bridge bearinge the Armes of Basset to be built by the Lord Basset of Drayton."

1 Itin. vol, IV., fol. 190 a.

BRIDGE OF ST. MARY.

The "Bridge of our Lady" is named in 1294. On the 11th of June in that year, a curious bye-law was framed that "factores de Tripes" should no longer wash "leur Trypes" there, to the annoyance of the town, under fine of 12d.¹ When this structure was first erected, we have not been able to ascertain. At an early period, it was endowed with lands and other property, for maintaining and keeping it in repair. Shaw alleges a bequest to it, in 1470, by Richard Archer, erroneously referred by Collins to a church of St. Mary here, which never existed.² It was placed under the care and management of two wardens, elected annually at the court leet and view of frank-pledge. The names of several of these have been preserved, with the dates of their respective appointments.³ After the formation of a select corporate body by queen Elizabeth, in 1560, the bailiffs and commonalty took charge of that part belonging to the town:⁴ for the Bridge has ever been, half in the jurisdiction of the borough, and half in that of the county of Stafford.

Lady-bridge was originally a low and narrow structure, inferior, as Leland observes, to Bolebridge, which it resembled in a great measure, being very narrow, and provided with triangular recesses placed over the piers of the arches, for the convenience of persons walking over, during the passage of any large vehicle. Its inconvenience, in the present expanded state of commerce, would have rendered its removal necessary, even if the waters had not destroyed it. On the 10th

1 Court rolls. 2 Shaw's Staffordsh. 3 See Appendix :—Note 29.

4 In 1694 Richard Weaman agreed to repair that portion of the Bridge within the borough, and to keep it in good order, for 40s. a-year. The agreement was to last for 50 years, if he lived so long, and two years at first paid in advance, to defray the immediate expenses of some requisite improvements.

of February, 1795, several bridges on the Tame and Trent sustained great damage from a tremendous flood, caused by the sudden breaking up of the ice after a long and very severe frost. Amongst them, this one at Tamworth received great injury, the second and third arches from the town being fairly lifted up by the ice, and then thrown down. The swaying of the Bridge for some moments before the fall, gave the persons upon it timely notice of danger; but one was swept down, and carried along the stream for a considerable distance; yet he was fortunately saved by being thrown on a sheet of ice, from which he was enabled to cross to the side. In the following year, a higher and much larger bridge, consisting of six arches, was erected jointly by the corporation and by the county of Stafford, at an expense of about 2,000*l*.

The new Bridge, although far superior to the ancient, one, possessed one great disadvantage. The central third was made of a width amply sufficient, yet the ends were so contracted that two ordinary vehicles could not pass abreast. Several accidents at various times consequently happened. An improvement in this respect had long been greatly desired; but, on account of the expense, nothing was effected until 1837. At that time, an accident of a serious nature occurred. The right hon. sir Robert Peel took up the matter, and addressed a letter through the town-clerk to the council of Tamworth, to this effect.

“Drayton Manor, Dec. 29, 1837.”

“Sir,

I am desirous of making through you the following communication to the Council of Tamworth.

I understand that there has been more than one

¹ Shaw's Staffordsh.

practical proof of the inconvenience and danger arising from the contraction of the passage-way at each extremity of Lady Bridge : and it appears to me that there is no improvement which would conduce more to the comfort of the inhabitants of Tamworth and to the general advantage of the Town and Neighbourhood than the rendering of so important an approach to the Town perfectly commodious and safe.

I write under the impression that one half of the Bridge is under the charge of the Town Council, and the other under that of the County of Stafford ; and being desirous of contributing to a public work of so much utility and convenience, I beg leave to make the following proposal to the Town Council.

I will place the sum of 500*l.* at the disposal of the Town Council, to be applied to the widening of that part of the Bridge which adjoins the Town, upon these conditions.

First. That a sum shall be appropriated either from funds at the disposal of the Council or to be raised by public subscription, which, together with the sum above-mentioned of 500*l.*, shall be sufficient to complete that part of the improvement of the Bridge in a handsome and effectual manner.

And *Secondly.* That the County can be prevailed upon to complete in a corresponding manner that part of the improvement dependent upon them.

It is obvious that there would be little advantage in a partial widening of the Bridge at one extremity ; and the co-operation of the County is, therefore, requisite. I trust, however, considering the accident which recently occurred on that part of the Bridge, which, if I am rightly informed, belongs to the County, the

County will be disposed, on a proper representation supported by facts, to give their consent and assistance towards an object of common concern and common importance to the County of Stafford and Town of Tamworth."

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient faithful Servant,
ROBERT PEEL."

In consequence of this letter and the munificent offer which it contained, the town-council adopted active measures for the purpose of effecting the intended improvement of widening the ends of the Bridge to an equality with the central part. A presentment was, after some difficulty, obtained by the grand jury at the county quarter-sessions of the narrow and incommodious state of the Bridge; notwithstanding, much opposition was raised to the alteration, on account of the expense which the county would thereby incur. But, through the influence and persevering exertions of one of the magistrates, Henry J. Pye, esq., of Clifton-hall, the requisite order was obtained at the sessions in April, 1839. The improvement of the Bridge was immediately commenced, and was completed about the beginning of the following year. During these repairs, records and coins were formally deposited within the masonry, to serve for the wonderment and edification of generations yet slumbering in the embryo of time, that may live when these ages shall be viewed as we now behold those of ancient Greece and Rome.

The great stone alluded to by Leland, probably formed at one time the pedestal either supporting an image of our Lady with the Divine Infant, or a large cross. In 1697, it was known as the cross and dial,

so it appears then to have been surmounted by such an indicator of the flight of time. It presented five unequal sides, bearing escutcheons and other devices. When Shaw saw this curious relic, the two largest shields were quite defaced, but over one of them a crown remained tolerably perfect. Either of them must have borne the arms of Basset of Drayton,—Or, three piles Gu., a canton Erm.¹ In the compartment next the last, was the monogram formed by the union of the letters **S** and **M** with a crown over, in allusion to the blessed Virgin Mary. On the two remaining sides, were inscribed the letters **I** **M** **C**, meaning Jesus.² The stone survived the destruction of the old Bridge. After the erection of the new one, it lay, for many years, amongst some rubbish, at the end near the Castle; subsequently it was placed in the ground as a support for the stump of some wooden railings: and there, for anything that is known to the contrary, it may remain at the present time, neglected by those who scarcely seem to appreciate the feelings which they would fain awaken in the minds of distant posterity.

BOLEBRIDGE.

Bolebridge lies at the south-east end of the town, and not at the north-east as Leland inaccurately states. It is very narrow and long, consisting of twelve small arches, with triangular recesses over the piers. The end towards Bolehall is much wider than the rest. The structure appears to be as ancient as the old Lady-bridge was. It was similarly placed under the charge of two annually appointed wardens, of whom the

¹ The other probably bore the arms of Marmyon. The Bridge would seem to have been erected by two persons, partly for the town and partly for the county. The stone was traditionally known as "the Marmyon stone."

² Shaw's Staffordsh.

names of those for one year only are preserved, Nicholas Brown and William Gowth, elected to the office in October, 1508, when they took the required oath. From the exaction of tolls on vendible commodities, it would appear that there was not an adequate provision destined solely for its maintenance. It is now, as it ever has been, partly under the care of the town, and partly under that of the county of Warwick.

This Bridge, although once the finest of the two, is now very inferior in every respect. Its narrowness renders it ill-adapted for a thoroughfare in these times, but it has been made as commodious as its original defective construction would allow. In the early part of 1820, the bailiffs had the side-walls increased in height, in consequence of an accident which then occurred. Its improvement, either by widening it, or by building an entirely new one, has long been desired. This plan is calculated materially to improve the lower part of the town. But we fear that the scheme will not be carried into execution for a considerable time, unless, indeed, some unforeseen event should hasten the tardy operations of those, to whom the repairs of the Bridge are committed.

THE MOAT-HOUSE.

Amongst the private edifices within the town of Tamworth, there is only one, besides the Castle, which demands especial notice. This is the Moat-house, a fine Elizabethan building, situated on the south side of Lichfield-street, near the outskirts of the town. Here several titled persons and families of distinction have resided.

The Moat-house was built about the year 1572, by Mr. William Comberford, of the very ancient and honourable race seated at Comberford and at Wednesbury, in Staffordshire, and possessed of extensive property in the adjacent parts of the country. At first, it seems to have been inhabited by the family of Harcourt, allied to that of the Comberfords by marriage, as a map of Drayton, according to Shaw, indicated this as their dwelling;¹ but at the end of the sixteenth century, William Comberford undoubtedly constituted it his residence, and continued in it until his death in 1625. Here he entertained prince Charles in 1619.

From the Comberfords, the Moat-house passed to Thomas Fox, esq., who, settling here, on the 28th of September, 1654, married, at this town, Miss Judith Boothby.

¹ In the reign of Philip and Mary, Walter Harcourt had his dwelling in Lichfield-street, near the Horse-fair or "Tamworth Green." In the Court-rolls of the town, from the reign of Henry V. to Henry VIII., constant mention is made of the Moathall-end, at the lower extremity of this street. Was the Moat-house only rebuilt in 1572?

Thomas Fox did not hold the property for a very long time. For, by indenture of the 2nd of April, 1663, he and his wife sold to sir William Boothby, knt. and bart., for 1,540*l.*, the Moat-hall, with the edifices and gardens belonging; the croft adjoining the court-yard; the moat, with the right of fishing in it and in the Tame;—all these lay between the land of Thomas Fox then enclosed with palings and in the occupation of Thomas Gilbert, the garden belonging to George Wright's cottage, and the croft attached to the messuage of John Ferrers, esq., occupied by William Fawkener, on the east; Tamworth Green, on the west; and Lichfield-street, on the north;—the seat in the Church belonging to the Moat-hall; the aisle or burying place in the Chancel on the north side of the Church, adjoining the Comberford-chapel;¹ a messuage adjoining the Moat-court; Street-orchard, with a little cottage, situated between the land of Robert Comberford, that of Thomas Fox called the Challengewood closes, the common lane leading to the moor, and Lichfield-street; a wood-ground called the Piddings in Hopwas, between the common field, Hopwas-hays, and the Tame; the tithes of corn, grain, hay, wood, wool, and lamb, and all others whatsoever arising out of the township-fields and meadow of Hopwas, Hopwas-hays, and Broad-meadow; and the liberty of keeping and marking six swans upon the rivers Tame and Anker.

Sir William Boothby constituted the Moat-house his residence.² In 1671, he sold it to sir Edward Littleton,

¹ A part of the Church is still marked out as belonging to the Moat-house, for sepulture. It includes nearly half of the Transept and a considerable portion in the north-west corner of the Chantry-chapel.

² Extract from the Parish-register.

"January, 1663[-4].

¹ baptized William the Son of Sr William Boothbey, Knight & baron^t, and Dame Hills his wife, of Tamworth."

bart., then of Pillaton-hall, in Staffordshire. The latter soon removed to Tamworth; and here numerous of his family were born or buried, as is attested by the Parish Register.

April, 1676.

- 11 Baptized Devereux son of S^r Edward Lytleton of T., & Joyce Ux'.

July, 1677.

- 24 Baptized Thomas son of S^r Edward Lytton of Tamworth, & Joyce Ux'.

September, 1678.

- 12 Baptized Fisher son of S^r Edward Littleton of Tamworth, & Joyce ux'.

July, 1679.

- 14 Buryed Thomas son of S^r Edward Lytton of Tamwth.

March, 1679[-80].

- 9 Baptized William son of S^r Edward Littleton of Tamworth, and Joyce uxor.

August, 1681.

- 6 Baptized Jane daughter of S^r Edward Littleton of Tamworth, and Joyce ux'.

January, 1681[-2].

- 15 Buryed Jane daught^r of S^r Edward Littleton of Tamworth.

December, 1682.

- 12 Baptized Joyce daught^r of S^r Edward Lytton of Tamworth, & Joyce ux'.

January, 1683[-4].

- 20 Baptized Charles son of S^r Edward Littleton of Tamworth, & Joyce ux'.

March, 1683[-4].

- 15 Buryed Charles son of S^r Edward Littleton of Tamworth.

October, 1685.

26 Buryed Joyce daught^r of S^r Edward Lyttleton of Tamworth.

February, 1686[-7].

24 Baptized Henry son of S^r Edward Lyttleton of Tamworth, & Joyce ux^r.

June, 1689.

7 Buryed Katherine daught^r of S^r. Edward Littleton of Tamworth.

October, 1689.



HAMON DE WOLFERSTON, in 1283, had a charter of free-warren granted him by Edw. I., in Wolferston, Freston, and Chelmundeston, all in Suffolk.

ROGER DE WOLFERTON, in 1327, held a fourth part of a knight's fee in Wolferton.

RICHARD WOLVESTON, clerk. In 1363, the sum of 33*l*. was paid to his executors for a Missal.

ROGER DE WOLFERTON was escheator for the counties of Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk, in 1359-68.

RICHARD DE WOLVESTON, in 1380, held an "inquisitio ad quod

dampnum"—"pro priore de Donenasahe," as to lands in Bergholte and Culfo.

ROGER DE WOLFERSTON, "et alii," in 1392, held a similar inquisition "pro ecclⁱe sancti Petri de Gippewic,"—Ipswich,—as to lands at the same places.

ELIZABETH WOLVERSTON, in 1420, died seized of lands in Wolverston, Freston, Bergholte, and Caketon.

THOMAS WOLFERSTON, in 1433, held one knight's fee in Freston and Holbrooke of John de Mowbray, duke of Norfolk.

RICHARD WOLVERSTON, in 1497, died seized of lands in Chulpho and nine other manors.

ROBERT WOLFERSTON, esq., of Wolverston, in Suffolk, made his will in 1492. His son,

THOMAS WOLFERSTON, esq., of Culfye, Suffolk, m. Maud or Mary, dau. of sir Humphry Stanley, of Pype, knight of the body to Henry VII. His issue were,

i. PHILIP, of Wolferston-hall, Suffolk, who left an only daughter.

ii. HUMPHRY, of whom presently.

iii. SAMPESON, who m., July, 1558, Jane Larance, and had several children.

iv. v, vi, vii. ROBERT, THOMAS, SIMON, JOHN.

viii. MARGARET, who m. Robert, son and heir of Richard Everard, esq., of Hether, co. of Leicester.

ix. ANN, who m. Hugh Massey.

HUMPHRY WOLFERSTON, esq., m. Katherine, dau. of John Stanley, esq., of Grove, co. of Nottingham,

15 Buryed Mr. James Lyttleton of Tamworth.

Aprill, 1690.

24 Baptized Adam son of S^r Edward Lyttleton of Tamworth, and Joyce ux^r.

August, 1690.

12 Buryed Mr. Edward Littleton of Tamworth.

January, 1691[-2].

20 Baptized Sarah, Daught^r of S^r Edward Littleton of Tamworth, & Joyce ux^r.

by whom he acquired the manor of Statfold, in Staffordshire. He *d.* in 1592, and had issue,

- i. HERCY, his successor.
- ii. iii. STANLEY. THOMAS.
- iv. HASTINGS, who m. Alice Molde.
- v. vi. HUMPHRY. JAMES.
- vii. MAUD, who m. Tho. Arblaster, esq., of Longdon, co. of Stafford.
- viii. ix. DOROTHY, ELIZABETH.
- x. KATHERINE, who m. Ralph Thicknesse, esq., of Balterly, co. of Stafford.
- xi. BRIGITTA.

HERCY WOLFERSTON, esq., m. 18 Sept., 1593, Mary, dau. of Ralph Egerton, esq., of Betley. He was sometimes styled Captain, and is supposed to have been present at the taking of Cadiz, in 1595. He *d.* July 28th, 1636, and had,

- i. WALTER, who *d.* an infant.
- ii. FRANCISSE, his successor.
- iii. RICHARD, who *d.* young.
- iv. KATHERINE, who m. John Bromefield.

FRANCISSE WOLFERSTON, *bapt.* May 3rd, 1612, m. Sept. 29th, 1631, Frances, eldest of 22 children of George Middlemore, esq., of Haslewell, and had a numerous family. Three sons and three daughters lived to maturity.

- i. FRANCIS, his successor.
- ii. MIDDLEMORE, *b.* Aug. 18th, 1643, and *d.* unm.
- iii. STANFORD, a clergyman, of whom immediately.
- iv. GRACE, *d.* unm. in 1790.
- v. ANN, m. in 1662, to Edward Arblaster, esq., of Lywis, grandson of Tho. Arblaster before named.
- vi. ELIZABETH, m. to John Bott, esq., of Dunstall, co. of Stafford, and had, with three other daughters, GRACE; who m. the rev. Humphry Pipe, M.A., and had an only son SAMUEL PIPE,

in holy orders, M.A., of whom we shall presently speak.

FRANCIS WOLFERSTON, esq., purchased, in 1685, the manor of, and considerable lands in, Harlaston, co. of Stafford. He was a barrister of good practice until the revolution, but afterwards was a rigid non-juror. He was a particular friend of Dr. Plot, the historian of Staffordshire, and a writer himself, producing amongst other pieces the translation of Ovid, *De arte amandi*. In 1667, he began to write his name Wolferstan,—a practice which his family has continued. He was twice m., but left issue an only daughter ANN, heiress to her father's purchased estates, by his first wife, Hester, dau. of John Bowyer, esq., of Biddulph. She m. June 14, 1703, sir John Egerton, of Wrinehill, co. of Staff.

STANFORD WOLFERSTON, the second son, M.A., in holy orders, vicar of Wooton-Wawen, and fellow of King's College, Cambridge, m. 1st, in 1679, Isabella, dau. of John Hinckley, D.D., rector of Northfield, co. of Worcester, by whom,—who *d.* in 1680,—he had only one son Francis, who *d.* an infant; and 2nd, Susanna, dau. of John Creed, of Cambridge, by whom he left issue at his decease,—Sept. 29th, 1698,—

- i. STANFORD, named presently.
- ii. EDWARD, *b.* in 1691, and *d.* s. p. in 1761, and was *bur.* at Tamworth.
- iii. FRANCIS, rector of Drayton-Basset and of Grendon, who *d.* in 1786 s. p.
- iv. NICHOLAS, who resided at Berry, Devonshire. He m. twice, but left

January, 1712-3.

15 Bur. Mr. Addam Littleton of Tamworth.

Sir Edward Littleton's decease occurred in 1709 : and he was buried at Tamworth, on the 21st of July. The Moat-house descended to his grandson Edward, who made it his residence until 1751, when he died ; and he was buried at Tamworth on the 5th of October.¹ He had no issue, and his aunt Sarah, being heiress, con-

issue only by his first wife, Elizabeth, dau. of Geo. Phillips, esq., of Cornwall.—EDWARD, who had two wives, but left issue only by the second,—Mary, dau. of Peter Nichols, esq., great grandson of Peter Nichols, vicar of Bradworthy, and Week St. Pancras, in the county of Devon, in the year 1661. His family were,—1st, NICHOLAS, b. in 1774, and d. unm. in 1799; 2nd, MARY, m. to the rev. William Chanter, B.D., perpetual curate of Hartland, who had issue; 3rd, ELIZABETH, m. to the rev. Thomas Thomas, J.P. and vicar of Tidenham, Gloucestershire, who had issue; 4th, FRANCES; 5th, SARAH, who d. unm. in 1814; 6th, HESTER, late of Elmore court, near Gloucester, and now residing at the Castle of Tamworth.

v. HUMPHRY, solicitor in Tamworth, d. unm. June 7th, 1784.

STANFORD WOLFERSTAN, esq., as heir in tail, succeeded his uncle Francis in the Stafford property. He was a magistrate for the cos. of Stafford and Warwick : and m. Sarah, only dau. of sir Edward Littleton, bart., by whom he acquired the Moat-house in Tamworth, and the other purchased estates of his father. He d. July 2nd, 1772 ; and had issue,

i. LITTLETON, d. in 1769, in his father's life time s. p.

ii. DOROTHY, m. Sept. 19th, 1749, the rev. Samuel Pipe, vicar of Croxall, co. of Derby, and rector of Walton-on-Trent. She d. Oct. 30th, 1784, and had issue, with others, SAMUEL PIPE, to whom Mr. Stanford Wolferstan devised his estates, after the decease of his wife.

iii. iv. v. vi. SARAH. JOYCE. FRANCES. ELIZABETH.

SAMUEL PIPE, esq., assumed, in 1776, by sign manual, the surname and arms of Wolferstan. He was a

diligent and learned antiquary : and m., 1st, Margaret, dau. of Walter Biddulph, esq., of Barton-under-Needwood ; and 2nd, Oct. 4th, 1796, Elizabeth, eldest dau. of Philip Jervis, esq., first cousin of John, earl of St. Vincent. He had issue only by his first wife.

i. STANLEY, named immediately.

ii. MARGARET, m., in 1817, to Charles Salt, esq.

STANLEY PIPE-WOLFERSTAN, esq., b. March 21st, 1785, succeeded to the estates on the decease of his father, in 1820, and is the present proprietor of them. He m., July 21st, 1817, Elizabeth, eldest dau. of Swinfen-Jervis, esq., of Kensington, and grand-dau. of Philip Jervis, esq., of Netherseale, co. of Leicester, before named. Mr. Wolferstan has issue,

i. FRANCIS-STAFFORD, b. October 14th, 1826.

ii. GRACE.

iii. ANNA-MARIA.

iv. MARGARET-JANE.

v. FRANCIS-ELIZABETH.

vi. HESTER-SALIN, who d. in 1844.

vii. STANFORD-WILLIAM.

viii. JOHN-ROBERTON, who d. an infant.

ix. EDWARD.

x. EMILY-DOROTHEA.

xi. HENRY.

ARMS:—Quarterly 1st and 4th, Sa., a fess wavy between three wolves' heads erased Or,—for Wolferstan ; 2nd and 3rd Az., two organ pipes in chevron, between ten cross-crosslets Or,—for Pipe.

CRESTS:—A wolf Or, under a tree ppr.—for Wolferstan. A leopard's head erased Or,—for Pipe.

¹ Parish Register.

veyed the Moat-house to Stanford Wolferstan, esq., of of Statfold-hall, to whom she had been married on the 7th of July, 1713.¹

In the year 1752, Stanford Wolferstan and his wife disposed of the Moat-house to William Abney, esq. He resided here until 1767, when he sold it to George viscount Townshend ; whose steward, John Willington, esq., inhabited it for a considerable time.

The history of this mansion is involved in that of the Castle from this period, until the time that property of the Townshend family in and around Tamworth was disposed of. The second marquis Townshend constituted it his residence until his decease, in 1811. Afterwards sir John Shee, bart., inhabited it for a brief space ; and in the year 1815, Robert Woody, esq., went to reside there.

In 1821, the Moat-house, paddock, and gardens, with two houses and two barns in Lichfield-street, including altogether 8a. 2r.; the liberty of keeping and marking six swans upon the rivers Tame and Anker ; the right of fishing in the moat, and other the ancient privileges belonging to and enjoyed by the possessors of the property ; and the burial place in the North Chancel of the Church, were, with the Castle and other property, conveyed to John Robins, esq.

Mr. Robins disposed of the Moat-house, in the same year, with the rights and privileges attached, to Robert Woody, esq., whose widow still inhabits it.

The Moat-house is a very large, handsome structure, built of brick, standing upon the northern bank of the river Tame. It is approached from Lichfield-street through a long avenue of noble lime-trees, of

¹ Ibid.

more than a century's growth, and surrounded by a paddock upwards of six acres in extent, and large gardens.¹ The northern front presents five gables, but they have been greatly modernized. The side facing the river retains more of the original state, many of the transom windows being preserved. Two large rooms were added on this side by Mr. Woody, who made many other improvements, particularly in the road along the avenue. The house is erected on large arches, for the sake of dryness. The rooms within are very spacious and comfortable: they have been mostly fitted up in a recent style. On the second floor stood a large room, used as a library, fifty feet long and eighteen feet broad; but it is now separated into two. The ceiling is divided into compartments of various sizes, which contain the following arms.

1. Gu., on a cross engrailed Or, five roses of the field semee of the second,—Comberford: impaling Vert, semee of fleurs-de-liz, a lion rampant Or,—Beaumont.

2. Comberford: impaling Or, a chevron Gu., between three lions rampant Vert.

3. Six quarterings on a mantle semee of roses Gu. 1st. Gu., a talbot passant Arg.,—the usual arms of Comberford; 2nd, per pale indented Or and Vert, in the dexter chief an escallop Gu.; 3rd, the first-named coat of Comberford; 4th, Or, a bend wavy between two cotizes Sa.; 5th, Arg., on a bend compony Gu. and Sa. cotized of the second, a mullet Or,—Leventhorpe; 6th, Sa., two lions passant Arg., crowned Or,—Heronville. Crest, a peacock's head ppr., gorged with a ducal coronet Or.

¹ William Comberford enclosed the grounds with brick walls, that between the Moat-garden and Tamworth-green,—the last formed,—being erected in 1620.

4. Beaumont: impaling Or, a lion rampant double queued Vert,—Sutton, lord Dudley.

5. Comberford: impaling Arg., a chief vairy Or and Gu., over all a bend Sa.,—Fitz-Herbert of Staffordshire.

6. England; over the shield a ducal coronet.

7. Beaumont: impaling Leventhorpe.

8. Comberford (the talbot): impaling the first mentioned arms of the family.

9. Scotland; over the shield a coronet.

10. Leventhorpe: impaling Heronville.

11. Comberford: impaling per pale indented Or and Vert, in the dexter chief an escallop Gu.

12. Hidden by the wall between the rooms.

13. Heronville.

14. Comberford (the talbot).

In the smaller room, are eight coats of arms.

1. Beaumont: impaling Gu., a lion rampant vairy, —Everingham.

2. Beaumont: impaling Gu., a cross moline Arg., charged with an estoile of the first.

3. On a mantle semee of roses ppr., the first named arms of Comberford: impaling Beaumont. Crest, a peacock's head per pale Or and Gu., gorged with a ducal coronet of the first.

4. Beaumont: impaling Arg., three garbs Or,—Comin, earl of Buchan.

5. Beaumont: impaling quarterly Gu. and Or, in in the first quarter a mullet of the first,—Vere.

6. On a mantle Ermine turned up flory Or, Beaumont. Crest, an elephant bearing a tower, trappings Or.

7. Comin: impaling Scotland.

8. Beaumont: impaling England, with a label of three points Az., each charged with three fleurs-de-liz Or.

The moat, with a wall, surrounded the house, passing close beneath the edifice in front, but enclosing a piece of garden-ground on the south. The access was originally formed by a draw-bridge. Only part of the moat now remains. In front it has been mostly filled up, and lately converted into a garden, with a terrace. Between the house and the river, it is still preserved, and also the branch at the south-west corner communicating with the Tame.

To the Moat-house, are attached spacious and excellent gardens. The pleasant and open situation of this mansion, its antique appearance, and its internal convenience, render it a fitting residence for a nobleman of the highest rank.

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

Pages 49, 50. We have been favoured by William Staunton, esq., of Longbridge-house, near Warwick, with a note of five silver pennies issued from the royal mint of Tamworth, which are in his collection, differing from any we have mentioned.

Two of the reign of Edward the Confessor have these inscriptions :—

Obverse :—EDWARD RE.

Reverse :—GOLING ON TAM.

Obverse :—EDWARD RE.

Reverse :—BEVNING ON TAM.

Two of William the Conqueror :—

Obverse :—WILLELM REX.

Reverse :—BEVNIG ON TAMW.

Obverse :—WILLELM REX.

Reverse :—IELFWINE ON TAN.

One assigned to William Rufus :—

Obverse :—WILLELM REX ANG.

Reverse :—IELFWINE ON TANV.

Page 64, line 9. For 1246, read 1238.

Page 67, lines 4 and 9. For 1261 and 1264, read 1260 and 1263.

Page 71, lines 11 and 25. Philip de Marmyon, by royal command, restored the manor of Wigginton and the Staffordshire part of Tamworth to John de Hastings, on the 25th of June, 1285.

Page 76, line 21. Ralph de Monthermer, on marriage with Joan daughter of Edward I., was summoned to Parliament as "Comiti Gloucestr' et Hertf'." But it does not appear that he retained the titles after her decease.

Page 84, last line. For decease, read departure.

Page 85, line 2. For 1272, read 1372.

Page 87, line 8. John Hastings also claimed to bear the second sword at the coronation of Rich. II. The earl of Arundel opposed him, but the right was adjudged to Hastings; and the earl of March carried the sword along with the spurs.

Page 91, line 11. For 1633-4, read 1533-4.

Page 117. The bailiffs thus replied to the earl of Essex.

"May it pleas yo^r L', we receaued yo^r L'p's l're of the 28th of December last, Wherein your L' doth comend vnto vs your s'unt, Mr. Thomas Smith, to be a fitt man for one of the Burgesses to be imployed for our towne for the p'liam^t; and we, on the behalf of o^r selves & the rest of o^r brethren, do, wth all thankfulness of yo^r l'p's care had of our poore corporacon, referre all o^r assents to yo^r Lo'p's no'i'acon of the choise of two of three Burgesses no'i'ated and well liked of amongst vs. first Mr. Broughton is and of long tyme hath bene our recorder, who hath painefullie dealt in all causes that hath concerned vs; and in the p'liament holden in the xxvijth yeare of her Ma^{ty}'s reigne, vpon my L' of Leic^{rs} great favo^r shewed vs, we well liked of a Burgesse of his Comendacon, and likewise willeng to gratifie yo^r l'p's first comendacon, did allowe of Mr. Bryttayne, by w^{ch} occasion Mr. Broughton relieng vpon vs, being o^r recorder, was disappointed, & for other

places he making no sute was quite out: for wth wee had good Cause to be sorye, relyeng in all o^r accons vpon his frindlie and paynefull travaills. Moreou' & it may pleas yo^r l^p, S^r Humffrey ferrers' Sonne, my l^p kep's sonne in lawe, hath heretofore bene burgesse of the p^rliam^t for o^r towne; and we haue founde both his fath^r & him thankefull for o^r good liking of the then choyseng of him, who doth now likewise make sute vnto vs to be one of o^r burgesses. Vnto whom we haue given o^r consents, if it may be wth yo^r Lo' good likinge: and for the nominacon & choise of the other burgesse either to be Mr. Broughton or Mr. Smyth we wholly referre to your Lo' discretion, and will remayne to be certyfiyd of yo^r l^p's choise against such tyme as Choise shalbe made: and thus humblie we pray for yo^r L^p's happie estate.

Yo^r Lordshyp's poore frinds."

Page 121, line 19. For sixteenth, read seventeenth.

Page 135.

May 12^o, "At the Comittee for safety of the
1644. County of Warr', & for sequestracon of
delinquents' estates within the county
aforesayd.

It is Ordered by the Comittee that Michael Baylyes, now prisoner at Tamworth, shall be sent forthwith to Coventry, to the Comittee: & the Tenants of Alcott are not to be arested for any of the rents of Alcott priory, without especyall Licence of the Comittee.

ex p' Abraham Boune,
clerke to the Comittee."

"Gentlemen,

We did Expect yo^u would haue observed
o^r direction given for the discharge of Michael Bayleis:

we haue Considered sufficiently of the busynes, and find the Money to be payable to s^r Hercules ffancis Cook, in Trust for the Lord ffinch, and the Tytle was also in him in trust. We Require that, wthout more adoe, the said Bayleis be discharged, that he may haue Libertie to Come & Accompt here for the rents & debts of the Lands: we find it a Matter w^{ch} makes men's estates lyable to Sequestration, to p'mote suites agaynst men for obeyinge the Ordynances of Parliament. pray trouble the Com'ttee noe More vpon this occasion: we suppose yo^a will not absolutely denie vs this soe fitting a Comaund, whoe are,

Coventry, 18^o

Maij, 1644.

"ffor their ffrinds, the
Bayleifs of Tamworth,
these."

"Honored Gentl',

As we are not vnwilling to sett att lib'tie Michaell Bailyes vppon yo^r Command, Soe we hope yo^a are as vnwillinge to haue vs sett att lib'tie a prisoner for a debt vppon specialtie, not giving vs any warrantie for o^r discharge & indempnitie therein; which we shall expecte from yo^a before we shall dare to discharge the p'tie. But if we may receive your warrantie for o^r discharge, we shall most readily obey. And this Zele we hope will giue yo^a a full satisfaccon, wthout any more trouble. And soe reste

20 Maij, 1644.

Yo^r very Loveinge ffrinds,

R. SKEFFINGTON.

FFR. HALES.

WILLM COLMORE.

PETER BURGOYNE.

THO. WILLUGHBY."

Yo^r most readie to serue yo^a

THOMAS KNIGHT, }
THOMAS KEYE, } Bayliffs."

Page 148. This address was presented to Queen Ann, in 1710, in behalf of Tamworth, after the impeachment of Henry Sacheverell, D.D., in the House of Lords for high crimes and misdemeanors, on account of two sermons he had preached, one at the assizes of Derby, on the 15th of August, the second before the lord mayor at St. Paul's, on the 5th of November, 1709; which, being printed, had been denounced in the lower house as "malicious, scandalous, and seditious libels, highly reflecting upon her majesty and government, the late happy revolution and the Protestant succession as by law established, and both houses of parliament, tending to alienate the affection of her majesty's good subjects, and to create jealousies and divisions among them."

St. James's, May 18th, 1710.

This Day, the following Address from the Borough of *Tamworth* was presented to Her Majesty, by Mr. Serjeant *Girdler*, their Recorder, one of their Representatives in Parliament, attended by Sir *Thomas Lawley*, Bart., *Joseph Girdler*, Esq., and several other Gentlemen of the Corporation, introduced by his Grace the Duke of *Shrewsbury*, Lord Chamberlain of Her Majesty's Household, in the Absence of the Right Honorable the Lord Viscount *Weymouth*, their High Steward.

"To the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
The humble Address of the High-Steward, Bailiffs, Recorder, Town Clerk, Capital Burgesses, Gentlemen, Clergy, and other Inhabitants of the ancient Borough of *Tamworth*, in the Counties of *Warwick* and *Stafford*."

“May it please Your Majesty,

We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, make bold, in all humble manner, to Approach Your Presence with our free-will offering; and being warm'd with a noble Zeal and Ardour for the safety of Your Majesty's most Sacred Person and Government, and an Affection for our holy Mother-Church, do Unanimously, and from the bottom of our Hearts, assure Your Majesty, That, being deeply sensible of the Obligation of our Allegiance to Your Majesty as God's Vicegerent, we will stand by and support Your Majesty, at the Expence of our Lives and Fortunes, in Defence of Your Most Sacred Person, Rights, and Prerogatives, the Protestant Succession, and the Church of *England* as by Law Establish'd, against all Opposers, both at home and abroad, against *Popery* and *Fanaticism*, whether in Religion or Politicks; and against all such Persons, (if 'tis possible such Monsters there should be,) who make use of the Terms of *Loyalty* and *Moderation* only as a Mask to cover Designs which they dare not publickly own, and which, if ever they attempt, we hope the Experiment will prove dangerous only to the Authors.

And as the best Discharge of that Duty we owe to our Country and Your Majesty, we will, on all Occasions, choose such Representatives in Parliament, as shall be most likely to Unite in Heart, and Voice, and joint-Endeavours, to promote every thing that may tend most effectually to the Preservation of God's holy Church and Religion among us, the Safety and Honour of Your Majesty's Person and Government, and the Discouragement of Vice and Prophaneness.

That, therefore, our Church, which is built high upon

a rock may never become low or abased; That Your Majesty, the Supreme Head and Ornament thereof, may, for their Comfort and Protection, govern long a willing and obedient People; That the length of Your Reign may be proportioned to the Glories of it, and as remarkable for the happy Fruits of Peace as it has been for those of War; And the Piety of Your Example as universally imitated as it is commended; are the daily Prayers of Your Most obedient Subjects, who have hereunto subscribed their Names, and Affix'd the Common Seal of this Your Loyal Corporation."

The queen received the address very graciously; and Mr. Serjeant *Girdler* and the rest of the Gentlemen had the Honor to kiss Her Majesty's Hand.

Page 175, line 5. For form, read forms.

Page 181, line 13. For assignees, read assigns.

Page 192, line 21. We have discovered Cocket's lane to have been College-lane, in which the National School stands.

There was once a holy well in the Warwickshire part of Tamworth; for, in 1276, it is said "*Will's Chelle obstruxit viam q' ducit ad fontem S'ci Ruffiany.*" This is most probably St. Ruffin, who, with his brother, St. Wulfhad, in 670, embraced Christianity. They were baptized by St. Chad, bishop of Lichfield, and were slain, whilst at their prayers, by order of their father Wulfere, king of Mercia, on account of their having abandoned idolatry.

Page 193, line 6. For a very small, read no.

Page 197, line 2. For they do not contain, read it does not contain.

Page 198, line 11. For 35, read 32.

Page 216. At his decease, in 1291, Philip de Mar-

myon had the Church of Tamworth in his donation. John de Teford held the deanery, valued, in common years, at 10*l.*; Robert de Pygford had a prebend valued at 7*l.* a-year; Ralph de Heneman, one valued at 6*l.*; Hugh de Cave, one valued at 5*l.*; Michael de Ormeby, one valued at 4*l.*; and Adam de Waltone, one of the same value.

Page 221, line 2. Amongst our late researches, it was our fortune to meet with letters patent of Henry VI., concerning the foundation of two chantries in the Church here, and the provision of sacramental wine. The document is dated the 9th of February, 1445-6.

Henry VI. begins the charter by declaring that although his attention was usually centred on the welfare of the whole English church,—not on particular foundations,—yet it became him specially to direct eyes of compassion towards the collegiate Church of Tamworth, and, extend his protection to it. It appears from the statement of John Bate, the dean, that divine worship here had considerably declined, particularly when the vicars choral, deputed to the cure of souls, and attached to the prebendal chapels, were necessarily occupied in the ministration of the sacraments out of the Church, at least at the principal festivals of the year. Thus, on account of their fewness from their unavoidable absence, the canonical hours had been omitted, and the solemnities of mass laid aside, not only to the scandal of this Church, but to the detriment of Christ's faithful in it. This had caused the king on hearing it much sorrow; and to remedy the evil in some manner, he made these concessions. He founded a perpetual Chantry of one chaplain, who, every day, should celebrate mass for the peace and happy tranquillity of his king-

doms of England and France, for his health and that of his dear consort Margaret during their lives, and for their souls when they were dead, for the souls of his august father and mother, of all his progenitors, and of all the faithful departed, at the altar of the Holy and Undivided Trinity in the Church, for ever. The chaplain should serve in the canonical hours, high masses, and other divine offices to be celebrated daily by direction of the dean, that, by aid of this foundation, the divine worship so depressed might recover and flourish, and ever endure to the praise of God, by His abounding grace. The king assigned to the chaplain of the Chantry, for his maintenance, the fee-farm rent of 116s., which the men and tenants of the Warwickshire part of Tamworth were accustomed to render to the crown annually through the sheriff of the county, to be paid yearly by the bailiffs of that side of the town on the feasts of St. Michael the Archangel, the Nativity of our Lord, Easter, and the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, or otherwise according to the chaplain's will, at the four usual terms, by equal portions; notwithstanding any statute or ordinance to the contrary. The king commanded that it should be named his Royal Chantry. He gave licence to the chaplain to receive lands and other possessions from any person to the value of 100s., and to sell and alienate them without any inquisition by pretext of royal writ, and without the payment of any fee or fine to the king, the mortmain act not even interposing. He, moreover, gave to the dean the power of conferring the Chantry on any fit chaplain able to chant in the canonical hours, high masses, and the other divine offices; who should first make oath of personal residence here and of the obser-

vance of the laws and regulations of the dean. When by cessation there should be a vacancy, the dean and his successors should, in the same manner, from time to time, admit another chaplain; and any of them might be removed for negligence as to residence or the keeping of the regulations, or for any notable crime which would induce deprival according to the traditions of the holy fathers and the sacred canons. Moreover, as the dean, in his care and vigilance towards the Church, for the decorum of worship and the keeping of the charge committed to him, was desirous of founding another perpetual Chantry at the altar of the blessed and glorious Virgin Mary here, to the praise of God, also of the glorious Mother, and in honour and memory of the holy virgins Editha and Katherine, and to the augmentation of divine worship, the king granted licence to him to establish such a Chantry of one chaplain; who should celebrate mass daily at this altar for the peace and happy tranquillity of England and France, for the health of the king and that of his consort, also of the dean, in life, for their souls afterwards, and for those of Robert and Alice Bate father and mother of the dean, of their parents and benefactors, and of all the faithful departed for ever. The chaplain should assist in the canonical hours, high masses, and other divine offices. The king ordered that it should be called the Chantry of dean Bate, and granted licence to the dean, his heirs, assigns, or executors, to bestow on it any possessions, spiritual or temporal, to the value of twelve marks a-year, whether held of the crown or of others by military service or otherwise, for the chaplain at the altar, towards his maintenance, without any inquisition or fine or fee to the king, notwithstanding

the mortmain act or any other ordinance whatsoever to the contrary. And in order that the venerable and most excellent sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ might be approached in the Church more frequently and diligently by the devout faithful of Christ, with pious delight, prone wills, and sincere minds, the king granted to the vicars choral and chaplains of the Chantries, every year, a hogshead of red wine, from the royal wines in the port of Bristol, to be delivered by the head butler, for the most sacred use of the celestial mysteries, according to the direction of the dean.

Page 222, note and engraving. In reference to the seal of the Church, we have received a communication from William Staunton, esq., of Longbridge-house, near Warwick, stating that he had in his possession the matrix of the seal of Tamworth-Church, and offering, in a very kind and liberal manner, to give us an impression to engrave for this history. Of the opportunity we did not fail to avail ourselves.

The seal is totally different from the one to which we alluded in the note, as attached to the grant for mass of requiem by sir Thomas Ferrers. It is much superior in size, richness of the design, and execution. Of the three large central figures, one is doubtless that of St. Katherine, as she bears the wheel and sword,—the instruments of her martyrdom. Of the other two figures, one, with the archiepiscopal crosier, is probably St. Thomas of Canterbury; the other, a bishop with the pastoral staff, cannot be determined, as there are no distinctive marks placed about him. In the upper compartment, is the Virgin with the Divine Infant; in the lower one, a bishop in prayer. On one side of

the latter, is an escutcheon, with the initials T P; on the other side, one bearing the arms,—on a fess between three pheons, two and one, points downwards, a buck's head cabossed, between two pellets. The inscription is, S COMVNE COLLEGIATE DE TO'WORTH. From the style of the tabernacle work, we judge the seal to have been executed in the fifteenth century. The matrix is steel, originally gilt.

There is a very curious circumstance observable in reference to this seal. It is very plain that it did not originally belong to Tamworth Church, but was altered to suit it. The depth to which the inscription and the shields have been cut, show that the original legend and arms were obliterated to make room for the substitution of others: and the representation of a bishop praying in the lower compartment, farther indicates this fact. On the shield with the initials, may be plainly traced the three fleurs-de-liz of the arms of France and England quarterly, which have been only imperfectly erased. The later inscription betrays the unskilful hand of the second artist; who was compelled to omit the word ECCLESIE in connection with COLLEGIATE, and to contract and greatly cramp the name of Tamworth. The adoption of Roman characters shows the late period at which the changes were made. The present arms are those of Parker; and the initials T P make it evident that the second owner of the seal was Thomas Parker, who was the dean of this Church at the time of the ecclesiastical survey in 1535.

We have been unable to discover to whom this seal originally belonged. The adoption of a second-hand seal speaks very indifferently with regard to the financial state of this Church: a similar practice is scarcely

known except in connection with the most poorly-endowed institutions. John Gough Nichols, esq., of London, through whom we first received Mr. Staunton's communication, mentioned as the only instances he knew of a similar practice, the corporate seal of Maidenhead, originally the private seal of a priest, and that of an Almshouse at Croyden, which had been made for Stoke, in Suffolk.

Page 224, line 3. For 6*s.*, read 7*s.*

Page 225, line 15. For 16*s.* read 17*s.*

Page 262, line 14. Dele and on a higher level.

Page 265, line 7. Dele three chevronells.

Page 275, line 5. For rib appears, read ribs appear.

Page 282. line 6. In attributing the subject of the painting to the Day of Judgment, we are guided by the opinion of an architect, and of some in whose acquirements we reposed much confidence. However, on showing him a drawing of the painting, an eminent Roman Catholic clergyman, distinguished by his profound knowledge of ecclesiastical antiquity, pronounced the piece to represent the legend of St. Nicholas. Subsequently he referred us to a book bearing upon the subject,—
 “DE HISTORIA SS. IMAGINUM ET PICTURARUM, PRO VERO EARUM USU CONTRA ABUSUS, LIBRI QUATUOR; AUCTORE JOANNE MOLANO. JOANNES NATALIS PAQUOT RECENSUIT, ILLUSTRAVIT, SUPPLEVIT. LOVANIÆ, M.DCC.LXXI.”

In LIB. III, CAP. LIII, P. 387, our author treats, “*De picturis sancti Nicolai.*”—“Qui pingitur cum TRIBUS PUERIS, sed tam obscure, ut vix sciam, quonam referenda sit ea pictura. Tres Juvenes milites naufragium passos a sententia Judicis liberavit, qui eos ob furtum injuste ad necem damnaverat; tunc enim temporis Leges furtum non puniebant nece. Tres Filias prostituendas

sua clancularia munificentia in pudicitia conservavit. Tres militiæ Principes, apud Constantinum falso accusatos eripuit a pernicioso jugulatu. Fertur etiam a plebeiis, mulierem quamdam vesperi tres pueros occidisse, & in vase pro salitis carnibus reposuisse: eosque demum a Nicolao resuscitados esse. En quatuor ternaria. Sed ad quod eorum Pictores respexerint, nondum exprimere valeo."

A note is here added which immediately illustrates our subject. "Haud dubium, quin plerique ad quantum ternarium respexerint. Erat is, ut est adhuc, in ore vulgi: solebatque festivis dramatibus exhiberi; quorum unum, Lector, accipe descriptum e codice XIII. sæculi, ad Floriacense S. Benedicti Cœnobium pertinente. Debeo illud Auctori libri, hoc titulo editi: *Varietes historiques, Physiques, & Littéraires, &c. Paris, 1752. Tomo III. Parte I. pp. 184-188.*

PRIMUS CLERICUS.

Nos, quos causa discendi Litteras
Apud gentes transmisit exteras,
Dum sol adhuc extendit radium,
Perquiramus nobis hospitium.

SECUNDUS CLERICUS.

Jam sol equos tenet in litore,
Quos ad pisces merget sub æquore:
Nec est nota nobis hæc patria;
Ergo queri debent hospitia.

TERTIUS CLERICUS.

Senem quemdam, maturum moribus,
Hic habemus coram luminibus:
Forsan, nostris compulsus precibus,
Erit hospes nobis hospitibus.

SIMUL OMNES AD SENEM DICUNT.

Hospes care, quærendo Studia,
Huc relictæ venimus patriæ;
Nobis ergo præstes hospitium,
Dum durabit hoc noctis spatium.

SENEX.

Hospitetur vos Factor omnium ;
Nam non dabo vobis hospitium ;
Nam nec mea in hoc utilitas,
Nec est ad hoc nec* opportunitas.

CLERICI AD VETULAM.

Per te, Cara, sit impetrabile,
Quod rogamus, etsi non utile :
Forsan propter hoc beneficium,
Vobis Deus donabit puerum.

MULIER AD SENEM.

Nos his dare, Conjux, hospitium,
Qui sic vagant quærendo Stadium,
Sola saltem compellat caritas :
Nec est damnum, nec est utilitas.

SENEX.

Acquiescam tuo consilio,
Et dignabor istos hospitio.

SENEX AD CLERICOS.

Accedatis, Scholares, igitur ;
Quod rogastis, vobis conceditur.

SENEX AD UXOREM, CLERICIS DORMIENTIBUS.

Nonne vides quanta marsupia ?
Est in illis argenti copia :
Hæc a nobis, absque infamia,
Possideri posset pecunia.

VETULA.

Paupertatis onus sustulimus,
Mi marite, quamdiu viximus :
Hos si morte donare volumus,
Paupertatem vitare possumus . . .
Evagines ergo jam gladium ;
Namque potes, morte jacentium,
Esse dives quamdiu vixeris :
Atque sciet nemo quod feceris.

NICHOLAUS.

Peregrinus fessus itinere,
Ultra modo non possum tendere :
Hujus ergo per noctis spatium,
Mihi præstes, precor, hospitium.

* Forte : Nunc.

SENEX AD MULIEREM.

An dignabor istum hospitio,
Cara conjux, tuo consilio ?

VETULA.

Hunc persona commendat nimium :
Et est dignus ut des hospitium.

SENEX.

Peregrine, accede propitius ;
Vir videris nimis egregius ;
Si vis, dabo tibi comedere :
Quidquid voles, tentabo querere.

NICHOLAUS, AD MENSAM.

Nihil ex his possum comedere :
Carnem vellem recentem edere.

SENEX.

Dabo tibi carnem quam habeo ;
Namque carne recente careo.

NICHOLAUS.

Nunc dixisti plane mendacium ;
Carnem habes recentem nimium :
Et hanc habes, magna nequitia,
Quam mactari fecit pecunia.

SENEX & MULIER.

Miserere nostri, te petimus ;
Nam te sanctum Dei cognoscimus :
Nostrum scelus, abominabile,
Non est tamen incondonabile.

NICHOLAUS.

Mortuorum afferte corpora,
Et contrita sint vestra pectora :
Hi resurgent per Dei gratiam :
Et vos fiendo queratis veniam.

ORATIONES NICHOLAI.

Pie Deus, cujus sunt omnia,
Coelum, tellus, aer, & maria
Ut resurgant isti, præcipias :
Et hos, ad te clamentes, audias.

ET POST OMNIS CHORUS DICAT
Te Deum laudamus.

In this play or mystery, a great deal was represented in dumb show, as the murder of the clerks, the concealment of their bodies in a tub, their resuscitation, &c., which the imagination of our readers must supply.

The clerks in the piece at the Church are certainly made to rise from a place more like a tub than a tomb. The three figures of females, our kind informant considered to be those of ladies who had caused the painting to be executed, and who are made to kneel imploring the patronage of the saint, whose figure was represented, and whose altar stood close by.

Page 296, line 30. For heads, read head.

Page 299, line 25. For enlarged, read inlaid.

Page 322, line 8. The Unitarian Chapel was built in 1724.

Page 360, line 4. Baldwin Frevile was involved in the rebellion against Richard II. By letters patent, dated the 9th of February, 1497-8, at Clifton-Campville, the king granted him a free pardon for all treasons and felonies committed by him previous to the 31st of January last past,—murders and rapes excepted,¹—unless he were convicted as a common thief, or were an accomplice in the murder of any man. He was also forgiven the escape of felons, the chattels of felons and fugatives, fines, forfeitures, and transgressions, which would have subjected him to pecuniary penalties and imprisonment; also the disposal, alienation, and acquirement of lands and other possessions held in capite, without royal licence, and entrance into, or acquirement of, his or others' inheritance after the death of his father, without due process, yet except such as were alienated contrary to the mortmain act. Any sentence of outlawry promulgated against him was revoked

¹ These and the other exceptions were inserted as a matter of form.

May not his treason have caused his rejection as the Champion of the dignity of the crown, at the coronation of Henry IV?

Page 377, line 28. For prebend, read president.

Page 378, line 22. For Apr., read Sept. Lady Arabella Ferrers Townshend was another daughter of the second marquis Townshend. She died unmarried.

Page 388, line 28. For 2s., read 9s.



APPENDIX.

Note 1, page 71.

"Coram Rege, E' primo, anno v incipien' vj.
Querela inter ho'ies reg' de d'nico Reg' de Tamworth &
Wigginton, & Ph'm de Marmyon, que eadem man'ia tenuit ex
reuersione Reg', tangen' s'vicia & ali' cons', que ab eis exigit,
non terminat'."—CORPORATION RECORDS.

Note 2, page 102.

NAMES OF HIGH BAILIFFS.

A.D.	STAFFORDSHIRE.	WARWICKSHIRE.
1284		Will. Wareman.
1294	Simon le Sauvage, Hen. de Billey.	Will. Wareman, John de Pichford. (July 4.)
1309	John le Sauvage, Will. Neel.	Ralph le Dester, Rob. Jewet.
1310	Will. Matthew, Ralph Drambel.	John de Shepey, John de Pichford.
1312		John Hendeman, John de Wycford. (July 2.)
1313	John le Sauvage, John le Cocks.	John Hendeman, John de Wycford.
1314	Will. le Chanoun.	John Hendeman, John de Wycford.
1315	Will. le Chanoun, John le Sauvage.	John de Pichford, John de Shepey.
1317	Will. le Chanoun, John le Sauvage.	John de Pichford.
1321		Rob. Jewet, Will. Batcock.
1329		Will. le Querdon, Tho. de Harlaston.
1332	John de Wridefen, Ralph Jewet.	John de Pichford, Will. le Hayward.
1338		Will. Batcock, Philip Goss.
1352	Rich. le Wheeler, John le Hayward.	

A.D.	STAFFORDSHIRE.	WARWICKSHIRE.
1355	Rob. le Wheeler, Ralph le Prior.	
1357	Rich. le Wheeler, Rob. de Coton, John le Newman.	
1358	John le Hayward, Rob. le Wheeler.	Tho. Keek, Rog. de Pipe.
1359	John le Hayward, Rob. le Wheeler.	
1360	Rob. de Coton, John le Sadler.	
1366	Rich. le Wheeler, John Newman.	
1368	Rog. le Horner, John Matthew.	Rog. Bates, Adam Breton.
1370	John le Sadler, John Newman.	Rog. Bates, Will. Keek.
1372	John de Loughborough, John Matthew.	
1373	Rich. Wheeler, (July 5.) John Newman.	
1375	John de Loughborough, John Matthew.	
1377	Rob. de Aston, Rog. Horner.	Adam Breton, Will. Keek.
1378	John Sadler, John Loughborough.	
1379	Ralph Silvester, John de Barton.	
1381	Ralph Silvester, John de Barton.	Adam Breton, John Taylor.
1384	John Sadler, Tho. Sawyer.	
1387	John de Bollenhull, John de Elford.	
1390	John de Bollenhull, Tho. le Walker.	
1391	John de Elford, John Sadler.	
1392	Tho. Walker, John Bate.	
1395	John de Bollenhull, John Horner.	
1397	John Coton, John Horner.	

A.D.	STAFFORDSHIRE.	WARWICKSHIRE.
1402		Rog. Melewich, Tho. Taylor.
1403	John Coton, Tho. Symond.	
1408	Will. Cook, John Bate.	
1409	Tho. Symond, Rich. Dalton.	
1411	Tho. Lamb, John Coton.	Tho. Taylor, John Helewys.
1414	Hen. Jekes, Will. Cook.	
1417	Will. Cook, John Russel.	
1418	Tho. Colman, Tho. Symond.	John Stokes.
1419		Hugh Freeman, Hen. Barker.
1421	John Russel, John Rote.	
1424		Tho. Taylor, Hen. Barker.
1427	Hen. Jekes, Will. Cook.	
1428	Will. Marshall, John Russel.	
1430	Tho. Colman, John Rote.	
1435	John Russel, John Coton.	
1436	Ralph Daniel, Tho. Colman.	
1438	Peter Goabout, Tho. Colman.	
1439	Hugh Colman, John de Coton.	
1440	John Russel, Tho. Challoner.	
1442	Peter Goabout.	
1444	Peter Goabout, Tho. Challoner.	
1445	Rich. Dalton, John Geffrey.	
1448	Rob. Stokes, Rich. Dalton.	

A.D.	STAFFORDSHIRE.	WARWICKSHIRE.
1450	John Geffrey, Rich. Dalton.	
1451	John Russel, John Coton.	
1454	Rich. Dalton, John Colman.	
1455	John Geffrey, John Goldson.	
1456	John Coton, Peter Goabout.	
1459	John Geffrey, Tho. Matthew.	
1460		John Hodnet, John Seaman.
1461	John Geffrey, Rich. Nicholls.	
1462	John Breton, Nich. Rugeley.	
1469	Rich. Dalton, Peter Goabout.	
1470	Hen. Jekes, Rich. Nicholls.	
1493	John Chare, Will. Green.	
1500	John Irp, Nich. Bishop.	
1505	John Repington, John Hill.	
1507	John Jekes, John Irp.	
1509	Tho. Goldson, John Hill.	
1516	John Jekes, John Mason.	Will. Harrison, Tho. Woodshaw.
1530	Hen. Seale, John Repington.	
1547	Rich. Jekes, Hen. White.	Humph. Towers, John Hewer.

Note 3, page 103.

NAMES OF LOW BAILIFFS.

1332		Will. le Cook.
1334	John le Cokes.	

APPENDIX.

v.

A.D.	STAFFORDSHIRE.	WARWICKSHIRE.
1387	John Bate.	
1388	Hen. de Catton.	
1392	Nich. Russel.	
1395	John Sulby.	
1410		John Baynton.
1411	Adam Brege.	John Melton.
1430	John Walker.	
1451	John Walker.	
1505	Rich. Shernford. (July 21.)	

Note 4, page 103.

NAMES OF TASTERS OR VICTUAL CONNERS.

From the Court Rolls.

1303		John Hendeman, Rich. de Ireland.
1304		Rich. le Palmer, Hen. Clement. (Nov. 10.)
1312		Ralph Drambel, John Hendeman.
1338		John le Hayward, Rich. Page. (Oct. 11.)
1339		John le Horner, Adam le Mulward.
1355	Alan Symond, Ralph Silvester.	
1356	John le Sudler, Ralph Silvester.	Hen. Symond, John Jewet, jun.
1357	John le Carter, Ralph Silvester.	
1358	Rog. le Horner, Ralph Silvester.	Will. de Querdon.
1359	Rog. le Horner, Ralph Silvester.	
1360	Hen. Matthew, Ralph Bear. (July 1.)	
1365	Hen. Matthew.	
1366	Rob. de Newark. John de Staunton. (July 14.)	
1371	Ralph Silvester, Hen. Matthew.	
1374	Tho. Walker, Rog. Taylor.	

A.D.	STAFFORDSHIRE.	WARWICKSHIRE.
1375	Rob. Bannock, Hen. Bollenhull.	
1377	Will. Barker, John Bate. (Oct. 21.)	
1379	Hen. Catton, John Mason.	
1387	John Savage, Tho. Symond. (July 15.)	
1388	Nich. Russell, John de Hopwas. (July 27.)	
1388	John Savage, John Jewet. (Nov. 9.)	
1389	Hen. Matthew, Nich. Draper.	
1397	Tho. Lamb, Rob. Newerk.	
1401-2	Tho. Lamb, Rog. Cardmaker.	
1403	Tho. Lamb, Rog. Cardmaker.	
1408	Tho. Lamb, John Kingshurst.	
1409	Will. Glover, Will. Haloughton.	
1409	Will. Glover, Rog. Cardmaker.	
1410	Tho. Lamb, John Kingshurst.	
1411	Will. Haloughton, Will. Glover.	John Russell, Tho. Challoner.
1414	Will. Haloughton, Will. Glover.	
1417	Will. Haloughton, John Rutter.	
1418	Will. Glover, John Walker.	
1419	Will. Glover, John Rutter.	Rich. Wyan, Nich. Roo.
1420	Will. Glover, Will. Jordan.	
1420	Will. Glover, Hen. Taylor.	
1421	Will. Glover, John Denby.	

A.D.	STAFFORDSHIRE.	WARWICKSHIRE.
1422	Will. Haloughton, John Denby.	
1423	Will. Haloughton, John Denby.	
1424	Will. Glover, Hen. Cooper.	
1426	Will. Glover, John Denby.	
1427	Will. Glover, John Denby.	
1428	Hen. Cooper, John Denby.	
1431	Will. Haloughton, John Denby.	
1432	Will. Haloughton, John Hulton.	
1436	John Fox, Nich. Burbache.	
1440	Tho. Green, Nich. Glover.	
1442	John Fox, John Lord.	
1443	Walt. Wirley, Rich. Baxter.	
1445	John Fox, John Lord.	
1448	John Belgrave, Tho. Green.	
1450	John Cutler, Tho. Green.	
1451	John Joiner, John Belgrave.	
1452	Tho. Painter, John Fox.	
1454	Tho. Painter, John Cutler.	
1455	Tho. Green, John Cutler.	
1456	Tho. Green, Rich. Nicholls.	
1457	John Fox, Will. Taylor.	
1458	John Cutler, Rich. Nicholls.	

A.D.	STAFFORDSHIRE.	WARWICKSHIRE.
1459	Rog. Spicer, Will. Taylor.	
1460		John Barber, Will. Clerke.
1461	Will. Green, Will. Taylor.	
1462	Rob. Spicer, Will. Taylor.	
1469	Tho. Weaver, Tho. Tovy.	
1470	John Lamb, Tho. Tovy.	
1488	John Lamb, Hen. Williamson.	
1504	Will. Tovy, Will. Moore.	
1505	John Ellicote, Will. Tovy. (July 21.)	
1507	Will. Moore, Will. Tovy.	
1508		John Clerke, John Lago.
1509	Will. Tovy, Will. Cartwright.	
1511	Will. Tovy, John Chaddock.	
1516	Will. Tovy, Nich. Webster.	
1517		John Lago, Tho. Wade.
1530	Tho. Reeve, Nich. Webster.	
1547	Hen. Osborne, Nich. Priest.	

Note 5, page 103.

NAMES OF CHAMBERLAINS.

From the Court Rolls.

1455	John Walker, John Prince.
1456	Nich. Rugeley, Rich. Keeling. (Oct. 26.)

A.D.	STAFFORDSHIRE.	WARWICKSHIRE.
1470	John Cheadle, John Joiner. (Oct. 23.)	
1488	Rob. Goldson, John White. (Nov.)	
1505	Rich. Green, Tho. Goldson. (Oct. 21.)	
1507	Nich. Moore, Tho. Tovy. (Nov.)	
1508		Will. Harrison, Rich. Woodshaw. (Oct.)
1511	Tho. Woodshaw, Rich. Green. (Nov.)	
1516	Rob. Wilcox, Fran. Clerke. (Oct. 12.)	

Note 6, page 103.

NAMES OF CONSTABLES.

From the Court Rolls.

1390	John de Coton, jun. (Ap. 26.)	
1441	Rob. Tovy. (Ap. 11.)	
1455	Nich. Rugeley.	
1470	Tho. Weaver. (Oct. 23.)	
1488	Will. Camvile. (Nov.)	
1505	John Green. (Oct. 21.)	
1507	Rich. Clerke. (Nov.)	
1508		Rog. Ball. (Oct.)
1509	Will. Caudy. (Oct. 15.)	
1510	John Brown.	
1511	Ralph Lago. (Nov.)	
1516	John Swepson. (Oct. 12.)	

Note 7, Page 105.

“Sup’ Interr’ ex parte Bett vers’ Humfrid’ Ferreys, mil’,
mi’strat.

Ser Humfrey Ferreys, Knight, of the Com’ of Warwyk,
sworne :—

To the fyrst, second, and iij^d, he saith that he, accompanyd
with one Thomas Swynton, s’unt to Sr. George Gryffith, knight,
and no other p’sones, mett with the said Bett in the parishe
church of Tainworth on the same Relique Sondag, after evin-
song, and demandyd of hym whye he did not wayte and geve
attendaunce vppon this deponent as high Steward of the same

Towne, on that daye, according to the custome. The saide Bett answering ageine saide, That this depo't shuld comaunde theym to wayte vppon him to whome he gave mete and drinke to ; saying farther that he was bounde to wayte vppon the Bayliffs, and that the king's grace nor this deponent or my Lorde Bergeys had nought to doo within the same towne, sayng that the king had gyven and grauntyd all his pryvilege wthin the same towne to the said Baylyffes ther. And this deponent, hering that, saide vnto the said Bett, 'Avaunt, knave, wottest thoue what thou sayest?' and with that, he saithe, he gave him a lytel lyk on the cheke with his hand; and otherwise he dyd not assaute hym or bett hym, or had any other company then is abovesaide.

versus Jek
sup'...fractu'
probat' co'tra To the iijth, vth, and vjth, this deponent saith that he, beyng highe Steward of the same towne, beyng accompanyd with Thomas Swynton, John Dorlaston, John Coke, and no moe p'sones, this deponent hauing a crosse wafter in his hand, and thather hauing swerds, as they vse dayly to go withall, at ix of the clocke of the same night, came to se the king's watche kept there at that tyme; and saithe that, as he was so passing by the dore of the said Jekes, y^t was tolde this deponent that ther wer certeyne p'sones at the said Jekes' howse in counsell vpon the matter betweene the said Bett and this deponent. Wheruppon this deponent, to thentent that the said Jekes shuld knowe that he was ther p'sent, did knocke oene knocke at the said Jekes' dore, and merely bad him good night, and no otherwise dyd assaute or breke the same dores, or saw the same Jekes, as y^t is co'teyned in this Interogatorye.

versus Bett,
testes (con-
tra) verborti-
one. To the vijth, viijth, ixth, and xth, he saithe the con-
taynts of all this Interr' be vntrewe: and saithe y^t he
neu' assawted y^e howse of the said Bett, or mad any
other suche crye, as it is contayned in thes Inter'. And Saithe
forther that he knewe not at that tyme whch the howse of the
sayde Bett was. And otherwyse denyethe the contents of this
Interr' to be trewe.

versus Edys
et Bett. co'tra
depositione
pontis. To the xjth, and xijth, he saithe that he neu' spake
any suche words, or thretened the sayd Edys, as it is
contayned in this Interr'; and saithe also that the
sayd Edys denyethe any suche words to have byn by this depo-
nent, Before the Justice of peace and xij other honest p'sons
beinge p'sent.

versus vigi-
latores. To the xijth, he saithe that he neu' assawted or bett
any of the kyng's wache at any tyme: howbeyt, he
saithe that on Nicholas Smyth, beinge a newcome s'vaunt to this
deponent, mett withe ij of the sayd wachmen which wold not
speake to him, as the sayd Smythe reported; and theruppon,
susspecting them to have byn faulse knaves, drew his swerde and

strake at them, this deponent vnknowinge of the same, vutyll the next daye that the Bayleffe of the towne complayned vnto this deponent theroff: wherupon this deponent, aft' the trewth examyned, delyu'ed the same Smythe, his s'vant, to the sayd bayleffe to be therfor imprysoned and punysshed: and therupon was so Imprysoned.

varius Diabol'. To the xiiijth, and xvth, he saithe that, as it fortunied this deponent to be in Tamworth on Corpus X'pi day last, ther beinge a playe in the whiche the sayd Wyll'm Carre was disguysed and played the part of a dyvell, havinge great chaynes of Iron abowt hym, and so com'ynge rudly by this deponent streake this deponent on the shynnes withe his chaynes; wherupon this deponent sayd unto his s'vauntes, 'Is ther none of yowe that wyll gyve hym a blowe?' and ther opou the sayd Anderson, his s'vaunte, went to the sayd Carre and demawnded of hym why he hurt his master so withe his chayne. The sayd Carre answeringe agayne, 'Why, knave, he might have stoude further owt of my way then.' The sayd Anderson, heringe hym make suche a lewde answer, strake hym on the hede with his dagger.

Testes quod non verborum vigilantes To the xvijth, he saithe he neu' assawted or bett any of the inhabytants of the same towne of Tamworth, or lay in wayt to bett them.

Bene probant se ipsos tenants (contra.) To the last, he saithe that he, as the high Steward ther, hathe dyu's tymes walked in the night tyme to see the king's wache kept; and suche as he hathe fownd neglygent, them he hathe punysshed."

Note 8, page 109.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

From the Corporation Records, and other sources.

5 Eliz. 1563	Michael Harcourt, esq. Robert Harcourt, esq.
13 Eliz. 1571	Edward Lewkner, esq. John Bullock, esq.
14 Eliz. 1572	Launcelot Bostock, esq. John Nuttal, esq.
26 Eliz. 1584	John Breton, esq. Clement Fisher, esq. (Nov. 6.)
28 Eliz. 1586	Walter Bagot, esq. John Ferrers, esq.
30 Eliz. 1588	Edward Devereux, esq. Rob. Wright, esq. (Oct. 12.)

35 Eliz. 1592	John Ferrers, esq. Thomas Smith, gent.
39 Eliz. 1597	William Temple, gent. (Sept. 8.) George Hide, esq. (Oct. 3.) ¹
43 Eliz. 1601	George Egiokke, esq. Robert Burdet, esq.
1 Jac. I. 1603	Sir Percival Willoughby, knt. Sir John Ferrers, knt. (Mar. 1)
12 Jac. I. 1615	Sir John Ferrers, knt. Basil Fielding.
18 Jac. I. 1621	Sir Tho. Puckering, knt. & bart. (Dec. 28.) John Ferroure, citizen & merchant of London.
21 Jac. I. 1624	John Wightwick, esq. John Woodford, esq. (Jan. 19.)
1 Car. I. 1625	Sir Thomas Puckering, knt. and bart. John Skeffington, esq.
3 Car. I. 1627	Sir Thomas Puckering, knt. and bart. Sir Walter Devereux, knt. (Feb. 16)
15 Car. I. 1639	George Abbot, esq. Sir Simon Archer, bart.
16 Car. I. 1640	Fernando Stanhope, esq. Peter Wentworth, K.B. George Abbot, esq.
12 Car. II. 1660	John, lord Clifford. John Swinfen, esq.
13 Car. II. 1661	John, lord Clifford. John Swinfen, esq. (Apr.)
23 Car. II. 1670	Charles, lord Clifford. [John Ferrers, esq.] ²
31 Car. II. 1679	John Swinfen, esq. Sir Thomas Thynne. (Aug. 11.)
31 Car. II. 1679	Sir Andrew Hacket, knt. Sir Thomas Thynne. (Feb. 25.)
32 Car. II. 1680	John Swinfen, esq. — Turton, esq. (Feb. 28.)
1 Jac. II. 1685	Richard How, esq. Sir Henry Gough, knt.
1 W. & M. 1688	Henry Sidney, esq. Sir Henry Gough, knt.
2 W. & M. 1690	Walter Chetwynd, esq. Sir Henry Gough, knt.
5 W. & M. 1693	Michael Biddulph, esq.
7 W. & M. 1695	Thomas Guy, esq. Sir Henry Gough, knt.

¹ The former of these representatives was elected for the part of the town in Staffordshire, the latter for that in Warwickshire. The writs sometimes came down from both county-towns; but generally, and always of late, from Stafford.

² The names within brackets are those of unsuccessful candidates.

- 10 W. & M. 1698. Thomas Guy, esq.
John Chetwynd, esq.
[Sir Henry Gough, knt.]
- 12 Will. 1700 Thomas Guy, esq.
Sir Henry Gough, knt.
[John Chetwynd, esq.]
- 13 Will. 1701 Thomas Guy, esq.
Henry Thynne, esq.
- 1 Anne 1702 Thomas Guy, esq.
Henry Thynne esq. (Sept.)
- 4 Anne 1705 Thomas Guy, esq.
Joseph Girdler, esq.
- 6 Anne 1707 Joseph Girdler, esq.
Richard Swinfen, esq.
[Thomas Guy, esq.]
- 7 Anne 1708 Joseph Girdler, esq.
Richard Swinfen, esq.
- 9 Anne 1710 Joseph Girdler, esq.
Samuel Bracebridge, esq.
- 2 Anne 1713 Francis Willoughby, esq.
Samuel Bracebridge, esq.
[Richard Swinfen, esq.]
[John Jarvis, esq.] (Mar. 24.)
- 1 Geo. I. 1714 William Inge, esq.
Samuel Bracebridge, esq. (Mar.
- 8 Geo. I. 1722 Francis Willoughby, esq.
George Compton, esq.
- 1 Geo. II. 1727 Lord Inchequin.
Thomas Willoughby, esq.
- 8 Geo. II. 1734 Lord John Philip Sackville,
Charles Cotes, M.D.¹
- 15 Geo. II. 1741 Lord John Philip Sackville.
Charles Cotes, M.D.
- 21 Geo. II. 1747 Sir Henry Harper, bart.
Thomas Villiers, esq.
- 27 Geo. II. 1754 Sir Robert Burdet, bart.
Lord Villiers.
- 1 Geo. III. 1761 Sir Robert Burdet, bart.
Lord Villiers.
- 6 Geo. III. 1766 Sir Robert Burdet, bart.
Lord Villiers.
- 8 Geo. III. 1768 Edward Thurlow, esq.
William de Grey, esq.

¹ He married, on the 2nd of September, 1738, the only daughter of Cheselden, the celebrated surgeon.

10 Geo. III. 1770	Edward Thurlow, esq. Charles Vernon, esq.
15 Geo. III. 1774	Edward Thurlow, esq. Thomas de Grey, jun., esq.
21 Geo. III. 1780	John Courtenay, esq.
24 Geo. III. 1784	John Courtenay, esq.
30 Geo. III. 1790	Robert Peel, esq. John Courtenay, esq.
36 Geo. III. 1796	Robert Peel, esq. Thomas Carter, esq.
42 Geo. III. 1802	Sir Robert Peel, bart. Major-Gen. William Loftus. (July.)
45 Geo. III. 1806	Sir Robert Peel, bart. Major-Gen. William Loftus. (Nov. 3.)
47 Geo. III. 1807	Sir Robert Peel, bart. Major-Gen. William Loftus. (May.)
52 Geo. III. 1812	Sir Robert Peel, bart. Lord Charles Townshend.
58 Geo. III. 1818	Sir Robert Peel, bart. William Yates Peel, esq. [Lord Charles Townshend.] (June.)
1 Geo. IV. 1820	Lord Charles Townshend. William Yates Peel, esq.
7 Geo. IV. 1826	Lord Charles Townshend. William Yates Peel, esq.
1 Will. IV. 1830	Sir Robert Peel, bart. Lord Charles Townshend.
2 Will. IV. 1831	Sir Robert Peel, bart. Lord Charles Townshend.
3 Will. IV. 1832	Sir Robert Peel, bart. Lord Charles Townshend.
6 Will. IV. 1835	Sir Robert Peel, bart. William Yates Peel, esq. (Jan.)
1 Vict. 1837	Sir Robert Peel, bart. Capt. Edward Henry à Court, R.N. [Capt. John Townshend, R.N.]
5 Vict. 1841	Sir Robert Peel, bart. Capt. Edward Henry à Court, R.N. [Capt. John Townshend, R.N.] (June 29.)

Note 9, page 115.

A rough draught endorsed :—

"Sir Humfrey Ferrers, for Tamworth stewardship. S^r Humfrey's l^{res} to my lo. Treasurer & S^r Robert Cecill."

"May it please yo^r honor to be advertysed that whereas S^r John Ferrers, my grete grandfather, & others of my aunces-

tors, had & enioyed the stewardship of Tamw., by graunt vnder the 'xchequer seale, durant' benepl'it'; And the late Lo. Treasurer, yo^r Lo. p'decessor, p'cured me the like graunt thereof from her mat^e; w^{ch} office afterwards the Earle of Essex obteyned from her mat^e vnder the grete seale. By meanes whereof, some contro-versie was like to have growne betweene him & me, for the same. Wherevpon I, being requested and advysed by yo^r Lo. p'decessor not to oppose my self agaynst the said Earle for an office of so little value, I was contented to indure that wrong, during the Earle's life, but held my patente still in force. And after his decease, I entred vpon the said office as I was advysed I lawfully might. Since w^{ch} my entrie, I vnderstand that Sr Jo. Egerton (vpon informacon given to yo^r lo. that the said stewardshipp was in her mat^e's hands, by the attaynder of the said Earle, & yo^r lo. having no notice of my patente) he hath obtayned a graunt thereof, vnder the 'xchequer seale, durant' benepl'it'; And hath sent vnto me to geve me notice thereof, as a dischargd for me : w^{ch} I hope yo^r lo. will not consider to be a sufficient discharge, for that, as I am advised by my counsell, the like hath not beene seene that a second patent hath bene graunted to any man w^{thout} some cause of misdemeano^r in the first patentee; whereof I humbly pray yo^r hono^r to have consideracon, & the rather for that I have of long tyme done her mat^e faithfull service in the office of a iustice of the peace in iij Counties, & never made sute to her mat^e for any thing but this office, w^{ch} my auncestors had before enioyed, and w^{ch} I doe assure yo^r honor, vpon my creditt, is no more than the bare name of a steward, and not otherwise worth ijd.; nor more wold I esteeme of it, but that my chef house adioyneth to the towne of Tamworth. And thus praying yo^r honorable favo^r, that I may still enioy the said stewardshipp, for w^{ch} I shall ever acknowledge my self bound vnto yo^r honor, wth due remembrance of my humble dutie, I take my leave. from my house at Tamw., this 23 August, 1602.

yo^r lor. in all dutie To the right honorable the lo. Buckhurst,
to be commended. lord highe Treasurer of England."

The letter to sir Robert Cecil, is substantially the same.

Note 10, page 115.

"To the King's most excellent m^{tye}, the humble petition of the Baylies & Com'inality of yo^r Highnesse towne of Tameworth, in yo^r countyes of Warricke & Staff.

Shewinge y^t wher', for the gouern^t of the same towne, ther is an ancient corp'acon of Baylies & com'inality in the same, for whose ayd ther haue beene a Recorder & Townclerke or

v'd stew^d, in the gift of the Baylies & com'inalty, and a High-steward, in the gift of yo^r highnesse & yo^r p'genitors.

Wher' the same office of Highsteward hath anciently beene wanted to be granted to S^r Humfrey Ferrers, knight, & his ancestors, beinge gentlemen of worth & neighbors to yo^r seyd subiects & their p'decessors, & therefore fittest to be imployd in the affayres of the same, for the co'en good therof: and wher' the same sir Humfrey Ferrers, having the same Highstewardship, at the request of Robert, the last Earle of Essex, a gentleman borne ther, yelded the same vnto him; & by the death of this Earle, the same is now in yo^r m'tyes grant, yo^r seyd subiects most humbly beseech yo^r highnesse to grant vnto the same sir Humfrey Ferrers, & his heyres male of his body, the said Highstewardship, beinge a place of small value, wthout com'odity, by whose neighborhoodde (wherby they have a fellow feelinge of yo^r said subiects' necessaryes, w^{ch} others further of cannot have a feelinge of) they may be comforted & releved, to the increase of there litel co'en welth in the same towne: & yo^r seyd subiects will dayly pray for the p's'vation of yo^r most roiall p'son, longe to raigene ou' us."

Note 11, page 117.

[Endorsed]

"Charges ag^t the Bailiffs of Tamworth: open requests mayd by Mr. F.¹ vnto Robert Seale, and others of the bayliffs, y^t y^e matters might be talked of & ended.

Yf ther be any matter consernyng my misbehavior towards the erle,² I desyer to satisfy y^t matter fyrst, desyryng to know my p'ticuler accusers.

deseyns to see y^e Articles of griffes exhibitid vnto y^e Erle, and who were y^e devysors y^hof by name.

Notes of the abvses of the bailiffes of Tamwo'th.

Imp'mis. John Stookes and Thom's Ashlock, bailiffes, receaved by composicion for money a great company of egyptions into the said towne, and kept them there three dais, wherof one was the marktett day: all w^{ch} dais both the said Bayliffes wth some others of there brethren kept the chiffe of the Egyptcions company in the taverne; all w^{ch} tyme, the other piking egyptcions were in the marktett piking purses and pocketts, and cut dyvers purses from the bodies of dyvers p'sons, both men and women; and when the parties greaved co'plained them to the bailiffes and requested justice, the said bayliffes did commonly, in the said taverne, make composicion betweene the cutt purses and the parties greaved, and caused the parties greaved to have redeliu'ed vnto him or them sume p'te of his or theire goodes by anye [pro-

1 Probably Humphry Ferrers.

2 The earl of Essex.

portion], some tymes halfe, some tymes the thirde parte, and some tymes lesse, and deliued the same egyptcions the thirde daye wthout any trouble.

It'm, the said Stoks and Will'm Shemon beinge bailiffes, vppon A feer day there were dyvers purses cutt and greate sumes of money in them; and a man was seen, very suspicioualie runninge out of the towne's ende, by one Richard Baylie, who followed him, for that he was a suspected p'son; and [he then] fled on the fyldes out of any highe way as fast as he colde runne, was taken and brought back againe into the towne, and deliued into the handes of the said Shemon, in his owne house; [the captor] declaringe to the said Shemon the manner of his runninge out of the towne, wth that the said suspected p'son offered him all the money in his purse and his clooke so that he wolde lett him goe, and not deliue' him vnto the Bayliffes. notwthstandinge, the said Bayliffes lett him goe wthout any publick examinacion, or any punishme't at all, wthout it were secret punyshme't of the purse.

It'm, one Henry Bucklande beinge slayne by dyvers persons in fight, w^{ch} dwelt in Tamworth, wherof fyve or sixe of them were Arrested of murder by william Bucklande and deliued into the handes of the said Shemon and Stoks, who railed at the said Will'm Bucklande and lett the prisoners & fellows goe wthout stayinge them, and threatened the said Buckland for that he had arrested the said p'ties; w^{ch} afterwards were indited three tymes of wilfull murder for the same cause, and the Queene . . . ed the bodies of them.

It'm, Robert Seale and John Wright, beinge bailiffes, staid a fellow vppon suspicion of felony for steelinge three horses, in the tyme of there last Bayliewicke; w^{ch} three horses they toke from him, and sent him away wthout any further punishment, and converted the horses to ther own uses, and gave the theefe money to bye him a paire of shoes to goe his way.

It'm, the said Robert Seale and John Wright now being Bayliffes, ther cam a fellow to the towne of Tamworth vppon a faire day about m'helmas last past wth fowre fatt oxen, w^{ch} were well worth xvi^d.; and solde them to a man of Ser George Hastings for xii^d.; who, as sone as he had bought them, said to the standers bye that he mistrusted they were trulie comen by, for that they were much more worth; not wthstandinge [he] wente to the toole-both and entred them bought and sold; and then the buyar and the seller drove them throughe the markett to the Inne of the Buyare; and after the theefe fled, and the Bayliffes aforesaid wolde have seised the oxen, but the buyare said he had toled for them, wherfore the p'pertie beinge changed, they colde not have them, But confessed he had not paid for them, and that he owed the theefe for them the sume of twelve

poundes, which said sune of xii^d the said Bailiffes receaved of the said partie, by vertue of there office; and wthin three days after, the right owner of the saide oxen came to inquire for them, and heiringe of the p'misses demanded the said Money; but wth much adoe, he got of them vj^d, and the rest he colde not gett of them, nether the oxen.

The said Bayliffes, vnd'standinge that the theefe was goen, made proclamacion in the towne that he shulde come to the swanne and receive his money, and after [he] receaved it; and [they] gave ther wordes to save the buyare harmeless, and never sent hue nor crye after the theefe at all.

I'tm, Peter Braddock and Nicholas Wilcox, beinge Bailiffs, vnd'standinge that a smyth, servant to Mr. Robynso', had stolen a horse and had curtoled him, and that he was wth the said horse at one Cullu'bines, in Tamworth wthin there libertie, they both went thither and toke away the said horse, and willingly lett the fellow escape; and Braddock kept the horse ij or three yeres; after which [it] was worth v^l.

John Turner and Henry Baron beinge Bayliffes, a pooreman, by a capias from them, arested a detter of his for xx^d marks, who confessed the accion and Judgment geven by the said Bailiffs and Greene there Stewarde: the p'tie beinge in there prison was after lett goe; and the pooreman to this hower can not gett his money nor any p't therof, by meanes of the cavill wth a rasure,—an error of the recorde in there owne court."

Note 12, page 141.

NAMES OF BAILIFFS.

From the Corporation Records, Parish Register, &c.

- 1560 Peter Bradock, Henry Draper.
- 1561 Walter Harcourt, Christopher Wiston.
- 1569 Robert Batman.
- 1580 John Coleman.
- 1581 Richard Wright.
- 1582 William Baron.
- 1584 Thomas Hilton, Anthony Weyman.
- 1588 Henry Baron, Thomas Ashley.
John Wright.
- 1592 John Allen.
- 1597 Thomas Alcock, Christopher Ensor.
- 1598 Francis Wood.
- 1600 Ralph Onion, Thomas Sheall.
Thomas Hilton.
- 1603 Thomas Alcock, Edward Vaughton.
- 1616 Hugh Clarke.
- 1619 Thomas Ashley, John Sharp.

- 1627 Clement Joell, Richard Lattymmer.
1628 Julius Alcock.
1631 Thomas Wright.
1639-40 Thomas Vaughton, Edward White.
1646 Thomas Lawkin.
1653 William Chitwell.
1654 — Ashley.
1659 Leicester Barber, Thomas Alcock.
1662 John Clifton, John Lattimer.
1663 Walter Ashmore, Thomas Egginton.
1664 Robert Peake, Robert Jennings.
1665 William Wilcox, Thomas Carter.
1666 Christopher Harthill, Robert Jeffrey.
1667 William Cawne, Thomas Talbut.
1668 Thomas Key, John Bankes.
1669 John Clifton, Thomas Pratt.
1670 Gilbert Jordan, Cornelius Osborn.
1671 Thomas Egginton, Francis Wright.
1672 Morgan Powell, Edward Drayton.
1673 Edward Symonds, Joseph Key.
1674 Robert Peake, William Ashley.
1675 Thomas Roades, Charles Baynton.
1676 John Welsh, John Vaughton.
1677 Christopher Harthill, William Harding.
1678 John Varnham, Francis Wright.
1679 Morgan Powell, Daniel Jordan.
1680 Morgan Powell, William Wilcox.
1681 William Cawne, Thomas Talbut.
1682 Josiah Newey, Charles Baynton.
1683 Robert Peake, John Vaughton.
1684 Francis Wood, Samuel Orton.
1685 Thomas Roades, Edward Drayton.
1686 Daniel Jordan, Richard Weaman.
1687 Samuel Buckland, William Harding.
1688 William Wilcox, Francis Wright.
Samuel Buckland, William Harding.
1689 Charles Baynton, Thomas Talbut.
1690 John Vaughton, Josiah Radford.
1691 Richard Weyman, Edward Bradgate.
1692 Thomas Wagstaff, David Read.
1693 Samuel Orton, Robert Cawne.
1694 Daniel Jordan, William Harding.
1695 Francis Wood, John Vaughton.
1696 Jonathan Backhouse, Charles Parker.
1697 Joseph Batman, Samuel Dawes.
1698 Robert Green, William Pickard.

- 1699 Joseph Batman, jun., John Vaughton, sen.
- 1700 Daniel Jordan, John Vaughton.
- 1701 Edward Symonds, Samuel Orton.
- 1702 John Radford, Richard Weaman.
- 1703 Thomas Mousley, George Hood.
- 1704 Samuel Buckland, John Vaughton.
- 1705 Daniel Jordan, John Vaughton.
- 1706 Thomas Homer, Richard Knight.
- 1707 Edward Bradgate, Samuel Leigh.
- 1708 Charles Parker, David Read.
- 1709 Jonathan Backhouse, Thomas Docker.
- 1710 Samuel Dawes, Samuel Shaw.
- 1711 John Seal, Isaac Orton.
- 1712 Charles Parker, Richard Weaman.
- 1713 Reginald Princeps, Joseph Hood.
- 1714 Joseph Alport, Samuel Leigh.
- 1715 Samuel Buckland, William Pickard.
- 1716 Thomas Batman, Samuel Dawes.
- 1717 Thomas Farmer, John Talbot.
- 1718 Charles Parker, Jonathan Backhouse.
- 1719 Samuel Dawes, jun., Nicholas Silvester.
- 1720 Joseph Alport, Joseph Hood.
- 1721 Joseph Alport, John Kendall.
- 1722 Samuel Shaw, Edward Lilly.
- 1723 Thomas Farmer, Beilby Laycock.
- 1724 Joseph Alport, Beilby Laycock.
- 1725 Charles Holden, Joseph Hood.
- 1726 Samuel Dawes, John Kendall.
- 1727 Thomas Vaughton, Beilby Laycock.
- 1728 John Bradgate, Samuel Rice.
- 1729 John Meacham, John Butler.
- 1730 Charles Holden, Joseph Hood.
- 1731 Edward Lilly, Samuel Rice.
- 1732 John Lattimer, John Kendall.
- 1733 Charles Holden, Joseph Hood.
- 1734 Samuel Nickens, Abraham Waterson.
- 1735 Thomas Vaughton, Thomas Oakes.
- 1736 William Beech, Isaac Bocket.
Samuel Dawes.
- 1737 John Bradgate, John Osborn.
- 1738 John Meacham, Joseph Hood.
- 1739 John Lattimer, John Butler.
- 1740 Edward Woodcock, Samuel Nickins.
- 1741 John Gibbons, John Osborne.
- 1742 Joseph Hood, Samuel Princep.
- 1743 Walter Rose, Samuel Nickins.

- 1744 John Bindley, John Osborn.
- 1745 Samuel Dawes, John Poynton.
- 1746 Abraham Waterson, John Kendal.
John Meacham.
- 1747 John Lattimer, Thomas Hinckes.
- 1748 John Gibbons, Edward Woodcock.
- 1749 Peter Goodwin, John Vaughton.
- 1750 Samuel Princep, James Oliver.
- 1751 Walter Rose, Joseph Barrow.
- 1752 John Osborn, John Bindley.
- 1753 Samuel Dawes, Edward Woodcock.
- 1754 John Latimer, John Kendal.
- 1755 John Gibbons, Thomas Hinckes.
- 1756 Peter Godwin, Nathaniel Crosland.
- 1757 Samuel Princep, John Vaughton.
- 1758 Samuel Pipe, John Gibbons.
- 1759 James Oldershaw, Rev. Simon Collins.
- 1760 John Lattimer, Benjamin Price.
- 1761 Samuel Princep, James Oliver.
- 1762 Samuel Crosland, Joseph Allport.
- 1763 Edward Ball, John Kendal.
John Vaughton.
- 1764 Thomas Hinckes, William Weston.
- 1765 John Vaughton, Walter Howe.
- 1766 John Willington, John Blood.
- 1767 James Oldershaw, Thomas Butler.
- 1768 Edward Woodcock, Joseph Heath.
Thomas Nicholls.
Nathaniel Crosland.
- 1769 Thomas Freeman, Thomas Holmes.
- 1770 Rev. Simon Collins, George Godfrey.
- 1771 John Wilson, Walter Lyon.
- 1772 Job Hunter, Francis Woodcock.
- 1773 James Oliver, John Bindley.
- 1774 Thomas Hinckes, William Dyll.
- 1775 John Vaughton, Samuel Heath.
- 1776 John Willington, Walter Howe.
- 1777 James Oldershaw, Thomas Butler.
- 1778 Rev. John Halsted, Edward Ball.
Thomas Holmes.
- 1779 Rev. Simon Collins, Edward Ball.
- 1780 Thomas Holmes, Richard Freeman.
- 1781 James Gray, George Godfrey.
- 1782 William Gresley, Williams Rice.
- 1783 James Yeomans, Joshua Brown.
- 1784 Joseph Heath, Walter Lyon.

- 1785 Thomas Hinckes, Joshua Bindley.
1786 John Willington, William Bindley.
1787 Walter Howe, John Brown.
1788 Richard Freeman, Thomas Willington.
1789 Rev John Halsted, Thomas Holmes.
1790 Rev. Simon Collins, Samuel Whitehouse.
1791 James Yeomans, Thomas Harper.
1792 Walter Lyon, Williams Rice.
1793 John Willington, Edward Bage.
1794 Thomas Hawkesworth, John Harding.
1795 Francis Woodcock, Henry Bennet.
1796 Joshua Brown, Thomas Willington.
1797 Joseph Heath, Thomas Holmes.
1798 William Bindley, James Yeomans.
1799 Joshua Marshall, John Marriott.
1800 Richard Bird, Thomas Arnold.
1801 Richard Freeman, Thomas Wallis.
1802 Williams Rice, Thomas B. Paget.
1803 Joseph Heath, Thomas Holmes.
1804 Rev. Michael Ward, William Parsons.
1805 Edward Bage, Robert Nevill.
1806 Robert Woody, John Harding.
1807 Rev. Charles Edw. Collins, Daniel Harper.
1808 Henry Bennet, William Bindley.
1809 Joseph Knight, Samuel Tylecote.
1810 William Alport, Thomas Bennet.
1811 William Bindley, jun., Richard Pipe.
1812 Richard Bird, Thomas Wallis.
1813 Josiah Marahall, Thomas Arnold.
1814 Thomas B. Paget, Joseph Heath.
1815 Rev. Samuel Downes, Richard F. A. Freeman.
1816 Rev. Michael Ward, William Parsons.
1817 Rev. Francis Blick, Edward Thurman.
1818 Richard Bennet, Thomas Buckerfield.
1819 Shirley Palmer, M.D., James Pipe.
1820 Robert Nevill, Robert Woody.
1821 John Harding, John Hall.
1822 Joseph Knight, William Parsons.
1823 Samuel Tylecote, Thomas Bennet.
1824 William Robinson, Thomas Freeman.
1825 William Bindley, jun., Robert C. Brown.
1826 Richard Bird, Charles J. Berry.
1827 Joseph Heath, Francis Willington.
1828 R. F. A. Freeman, William Parsons, sen.
1829 Thomas Buckerfield, James Pipe.
1830 Robert Fowler, Henry Wood Roby.

- 1831 Shirley Palmer, M.D., William Cox.
- 1832 Robert Nevill, John Hall.
- 1833 Joseph Knight, John Thompson.
- 1834 Rev. Rob. W. Lloyd, Thomas Arnold.
- 1835 Thomas Bramall, Robert K. Fallows.

Note 13, page 141.

NAMES OF HIGH STEWARDS.

From the Corporation Records.

- 1663 James Compton, earl of Northampton. He was nominated in Charles's charter.
- 1681 Sir Thomas Thynne, bart. (Dec. 22.)¹ He was afterwards created lord viscount Weymouth.
- 1715 Thomas Willoughby, lord Middleton. (Mar. 29.)
- 1729 Lionel Cranfield Sackville, duke of Dorset. (Ap. 12.) On the 28th of June, 1733, he resigned in favour of his successor.
- 1733 Thomas, Thynne, lord viscount Weymouth. (June 28.) He died on the 13th of January, 1750.
- 1750 John Carteret, earl of Grenville. (Jan. 24.) He was the representative of the late lord Weymouth; to whose son he resigned the stewardship, on the 25th of June, 1756.
- 1756 Lord viscount Weymouth. (June 25.) In 1789, he was created marquess of Bath.
- 1796 George, marquess Townshend. (Dec. 10.)
- 1807 George, marquess Townshend. (Nov. 27.) He succeeded upon the death of his father.
- 1811 Sir Robert Peel, bart. (Sept. 24.)
- 1830 Right hon. sir Robert Peel, bart. (May 19.) He succeeded his father; and retained the office until its abolition.

Note 14, page 141.

NAMES OF TOWN CLERKS.

From the Corporation Records.

- 1593 Henry Michell. He retained office to his death, in 1629.
- 1664 John Allen. He was named in Charles's charter.
- 1685 Morgan Powell. (Apr.)
- 1698 Nicholas Parker. (Oct. 14.)

¹ The times of the elections of high-stewards, town-clerks, and recorders, are the dates of their nomination by the corporation, not of their patents.

- 1724 Nicholas Parker. (July 20.) He was son of the former. On his decease, the next election was disputed; as it appears from the following order made by the corporation on the 1st of August, 1738. "Ordered that the law-charges, 39*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*., incurred in opposing Mr. Humphry Wolverstan's being Town Clerk, before the Attorney-General, be paid out of the town-box."
- 1738 Beilby Laycock. (Aug. 14.) He was elected on the death of Nicholas Parker.
- 1741 Samuel Beardaley. (March 16.) He resigned on the 11th of May, 1759.
- 1759 Edward Wolverstan, jun. (May 11.) He resigned on the 1st of August, 1763.
- 1763 Charles Oakes. (Aug. 1.) He retained the office for fifty-two years.
- 1815 Thomas Willington. (Aug. 1.)
- 1834 Francis Willington. (April 7.)

Note 15, page 141.

NAMES OF RECORDERS.

From the Corporation Records.

- 1599 Anthony Dyott. (July 24.) With this office he had an annual salary of 40*s*. He was a member of parliament for Lichfield in 1601, 1603, and 1614.
- 1664 Thomas Flint. (Sept. 26.)
- 1670 Sir Andrew Hacket. *knt*. (Sept. 19.) He resigned.
- 1688 Francis Wolverstan. (Nov. 19.) On the 26th of October, 1691, he was displaced for having neglected to take the required oaths of office.
- 1691 Philip Pargiter, councillor-at-law, Temple, London. (Oct. 26.)
- 1699 Joseph Girdler, sergeant-at-law. (Sept. 21.)
- 1724 Joseph Girdler, sergeant-at-law. (Nov. 21.) He was chosen on the death of his father; but was removed by the corporation, and, at the same time, his successor appointed.
- 1740 Hon. Heneage Legge. (Sept. 26.)
- 1759 Francis Mundy. (June 2.)
- 1769 Edward Thurlow, (Aug. 1.) He represented this town in parliament, until his elevation to the peerage. He died in 1806.
- 1807 William Hunt. (Aug. 1.) He continued in office until 1835. A salary of 7*l*. a year had been formerly attached to the recordership. This gentleman had never received it; but, in 1835, he wrote to the corporation-commissioner, asserting his claim to it for twenty-eight years.

Note 16, page 141.

NAMES OF CHAMBERLAINS.

From the Corporation Records.

- 1688 George Wright. (Aug. 28.) He was elected under the new charter of James II., but soon lost his office.
- 1688 Daniel Jordan, Richard Weaman. (Dec. 19.)
- 1689 Richard Weaman was directed to continue in office (Jan. 16) and he accordingly did so until 1693. On the 21st of July, in that year, it was ordered that there should be two chamberlains chosen from the members of the corporation, and two from the inhabitants of the town.
- 1693 Thomas Wagstaffe, David Reade, George Hood, Joseph Batman. (Aug. 1.)
- 1694 Robert Cawne, Samuel Orton, John Dawes, Richard Knight. (Aug. 1.)
- 1695 Daniel Jordan, William Harding. (Aug. 1.) The other two are not named.
- 1696 John Vaughton, — Newey, Job Boston, John Radford. These four are mentioned as being chamberlains on the 1st of August.
- 1696 John Vaughton, Francis Wood, John Radford, Thomas Woodcock. (Oct. 6.)
- 1697 Jonathan Backhouse, Charles Parker, Joseph Wilcox, Joseph Hood. (Aug. 1.)
- 1698 Joseph Batman, Samuel Dawes, Edward Symonds, John Vaughton. (Aug. 1.)
- 1699 Robert Green ; William Pickard ; John Dawes, jun. ; Job Boston. (Aug. 1.)
- 1700 John Vaughton, sen. ; Joseph Batman ; Thomas Mouseley ; John Hartwell. (Sept. 19.)
- 1701 Daniel Jordan ; John Vaughton, jun. ; John Seal ; John Toft. (Aug. 1.)
- 1702 Edward Symonds, Samuel Orton, Thomas Batman, Arthur Alsop. (Aug. 1.)
- 1703 Richard Weaman, John Radford, Samuel Dawes, John Butler. (Aug. 2.)
- 1704 Thomas Mouseley, George Hood, Joseph Radford, Henry Smith. (Aug. 1.)
- 1705 Samuel Buckland, Richard Weaman. (Aug. 1.)
- 1705 Samuel Buckland, Thomas Vaughton, John Jordan, John Onion. (Oct. 18.)
- 1706 Henry Smith ; John Vaughton, sen. ; Thomas Cooper ; Daniel Jordan. (Aug. 1.)

- 1707 Richard Knight, Thomas Homer, (Sept. 9.) The election of two inhabitants of the town was now abandoned.
- 1708 Samuel Leigh, Edward Bradgate. (Sept. 16.)
- 1710 Jonathan Backhouse, Thomas Docker. (Aug. 1.)
- 1710 John Vaughton, John Radford. (Dec. 8.)
- 1711 John Vaughton, John Hall. (Nov. 1.) John Vaughton remained sole chamberlain, from 1712 to 1714.
- 1714 Reginald Princep, Joseph Hood. (Jan. 19.) They continued in office until 1724.
- 1724 Samuel Dawes, Joseph Hood. (Aug. 10.)
- 1725 Beilby Laycock, Joseph Alport. (Dec. 31.) They continued in office until 1730.
- 1730 Thomas Farmer, John Kendal. (Aug. 1.)
- 1731 Thomas Farmer. (Sept. 20.) He continued until 1735.
- 1735 Samuel Nickins, Abraham Waterson. (Aug. 1.)
- 1736 Thomas Vaughton, Thomas Oakes. (Dec. 16.) They continued until 1739.
- 1739 Joseph Hood, John Meacham. (Aug. 1.) They continued until 1743.
- 1743 John Osborne, John Gibbons. (Aug. 1.) They continued until 1747.
- 1747 John Poynton; Samuel Dawes, jun. (Aug. 1.) They continued until 1753.
- 1753 John Vaughton, Peter Godwin. (Aug. 1.) They continued until 1763.
- 1763 John Vaughton, Benjamin Price. (Aug. 1.) They continued until 1766.
- 1766 John Vaughton, Walter Howe. (Aug. 1.)
- 1767 John Willington, Walter Howe. (July 30.) From 1768 until 1797, the bailiffs of the preceeding year were elected chamberlains, except in two instances.
- 1769 Joseph Heath, Nathaniel Crosland. (Aug. 1.)
- 1788 John Bindley, John Brown. (Aug. 1.)
- 1797 Henry Bennet. (Aug. 1.) He continued sole chamberlain until 1812.
- 1812 Josiah Marshall. (Aug. 1.) He continued until 1820.
- 1820 Edward Thurman. (April 27.) He continued for two years.
- 1822 John Harding, John Hall. (Aug. 1.)
- 1823 Joseph Knight; William Parsons, sen. (Aug. 1.)
- 1824 Samuel Tylecote, Thomas Bennet. (Aug. 1.) On the 6th of November, Joseph Knight was elected in the room of the latter, deceased.
- 1825 William Robinson, Thomas Freeman. (Aug. 1.) They retained the office, until the old corporate body was abolished.

Note 17, page 142.

“ The Coppie of the Peticon.

To the right hon^{ble} the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses of the howse of Com^{ons}, in this high Court of Parliament now assembled.

The humble peticon of the Inhabitants of the Towne of Tamworth, in the Counties of Warwick and Stafford, whose names are vnderwritten and Indorsed :

Showeing that whereas the said Towne is an Ancient towne, and the Inhabitants thereof haue, time out of mynde, bene Called by the name of Bailiffes and Cominaltie, and the Inhabitants thereof *have*, for the time being, have vsed, time out of mynde, to elect and Choose two fitt persons to serve in Parliam^t as Burgesses for the said towne.

And whereas alsoe the said towne is a populous towne, Consisting of 300 howsehold^{rs}, at the least, whoe ought to haue their voyces in the eleccion of the burgesses to serve in Parliam^t for the said towne.

Soe it is, may it please you, that Thomas Vaughton and Edward White, the nowe Bailiffs of the said towne, together with 21 others stiled, by a late Charter, by the name of Capitall Burgesses of the said towne, did, in the moneth of March last past, of themselves, without yo^r peticoners and the rest of the Inhabitants of the said towne or anie of them, And without any notice at all given of the time and place for Eleccion of Burgesses to serve for the said towne in this p^sent Parliam^t, p^{re}cede to elect and Choose, and did, without any such notice at all given, vndue- lie Elect, Choose, and retorne one Georg Abbott, a Sojourner in Caldecote, in the County of Warwick, gent., and S^r Symon Archer, of Tanworth, in the same Countie, knight, to serve in this p^sent Parliam^t as Burgesses for the said Towne.

In tender consideracon whereof, and for that yo^r peticioners' right in Electing of Burgesses for the said towne is not onlie thereby much intrrenched vpon, but the said Eleccion (as yo^r peticoners Conceiue) is illegally and vnduly made, yo^r peticoners humbly pray that the said Election may be declared to be void, and that a new writt may Issue out for the electing of two Burgesses to serve in Parliam^t for the said towne : And that such further order and Direction may be giuen for yo^r peticoners' releife as to Justice shall appertaine. And your peticoners shall &c.

Will^m Comberford.
William Brooke.
Richard Mowseley.
Raphe Allyn.
W^m Burbage.

W^m Gorton.
Launcelett Smith.
James Prate.
John Done.
John Fox.

Thomas Onyon.
Thomas Roade.
George Fox.
George Laykin.
Nicholas Smith.

Thomas Lakyn.	Will ^m Darlaston.	W ^m Peares.
Robert Blood.	Richard Bowelworth	John Wright.
Raphe Onyon.	James Alcock.	Henrie Sketchley.
John Wilcox.	W ^m Pigott.	Thomas Cooper.
Robert Baron.	Will ^m Bott.	William Tailor
George Wolderidge.	Richard Johnson.	Randall Chadborne.
John Topham.	Will ^m Key.	Thomas Key.
Thomas Hewer.	John Hall.	Raphe Plott.
John Greene.	Michaell Browne.	James Birde.
Thomas Webb.	Henry Bailey.	William Archer.
W ^m Browne.	Rob ^t Adams.	John Symons.
Hugo Hardinge.	W ^m Peate.	W ^m Slater.
Richard Smith.	Thom ^s Newth.	Thomas Preist.
John Ashemore.	Richard Mogge.	Robert Jenyns.
Raphe Gibbons.	Steeven Reynolds.	Henry Osborne.
Robert Wilkinson.	Robert Carter.	Hughe Latimer.
Thomas Browne.	Humfrey Dalton.	Joseph Radford.
John Hunt.	Richard Wright.	Henrie Alcott
Hughe Robinson.	John Tirer.	John Woodcock.
Henry Vnderhill.	Will ^m Ashborne.	William Kedes.
Richard Allen.	Thom ^s Heath.	George Browne.
Thom ^s Bailey.	Richard Ensor.	X ^r fer Hartill.
W ^m Falconer.	Thomas Kagington.	John Allen.
John Allen.	Thomas Robinson.	Thomas Winfeild."

Note 18, page 144.

A COPY OF THE SURRENDER OF THE CHARTER.

From the Corporation Records.

"To all [to] whom these presents shall come, we, the Bayliffs and Com'onality of the towne & Burrough of Tamworth, in the Counties of Warr' and Staff', send greeting. Know ye that considering how much it imports the Governm^t of the said Towne and Burrough to haue p'sons of known Loyalty and approved integrity to beare offices of Majestracy and places of trust therein, We, the said Bayliffs and Com'onality, have graunted and yielded up, and by these p'sents doe graunt, surrender, and yeild up unto his most gracious Ma^{ty}, James the second, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France, & Ireland, King, his heirs and successors, all and singular the powers, franchises, Liberties, Privileges, and auctorities whatsoever and howsoever graunted or to be vsed or exercised by us, the said Bayliffs and Com'onality, by virtue of any right, title, or interest, vested in or by any Charter, letters patents, custom, or prescription, in . . . of, or concerning the electing, nominating, constituting, being, or

apjoynting of any p'son or p'sons into or for the seuerall & respectiue offices of Bayliffs, High Steward, Recorder, Proth'notary or Town Clarke, and Capitall Burgesses of the said Towne & Burrough. And wee, the said Bayliffs & Com'onality, doe hereby humbly beseich his mat^e to accept of this our surrender, and doe with all submission to his mat^e's good pleasure, implore his grace and favour to Regrant to vs, the said Bayliffs & Com'onalty, the nameing and chusing of the said officers, and the said liberties and privilegedges, or soe many of them and in such manner as his mat^e, in his grace and wisdome, shall judg most conducing to the good of the said Towne and Burrough, and with and vnder such reservasons, restrictions, and qualifcasons, as his mat^e shall please to apjoynt. for witness whereof, we, the said Bayliffs and Com'onalty haue hereunto fixed our com'on seale, the xxvijth day of Aprill, in the fourth yeare of the raigne of our soveraigne Lord, James the second, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France, & Ireland, king, defender of the faith, &c., Annoq' d'ni 1688."

Note 19, page 152.

An account of the subscriptions raised in the parish of Tamworth, in aid of the supplies granted to his Majesty for the defence of the nation, in the year 1798.

TAMWORTH.			£. s. d.		
T. Holmes, esq., bailiff	5	5	0	A. Bindley, jun.	.. 0 10 6
C. Oakes, esq., town-clerk	10	10	0	Thomas Bindley	.. 2 2 0
John Willington, esq.	21	0	0	Mrs. E. Bindley	.. 2 2 0
John Meacham, esq.	10	0	0	W. Bindley jun. & Sisters	1 1 0
Messrs. Paget & Corgan	21	0	0	Edward Jones	.. 3 3 0
Thomas Holmes, jun.	5	5	0	Thomas Webb	.. 3 3 0
J. Humberston, M.D.	3	3	0	Francis Woodcock	.. 5 5 0
J. Harding	21	0	0	Richard Nevill	.. 2 2 0
Joshua Brown	10	10	0	Thomas Arnold	.. 1 1 0
Mrs. Brown	1	1	0	Miss Dawes	.. 5 5 0
Ann Brown	0	5	0	William Parsons, sen.	.. 1 1 0
Servants at King's Arms	0	6	0	William Parsons, jun.	.. 2 2 0
Williams Rice	10	10	0	Robert Panton	.. 2 2 0
Miss Robinson	0	10	6	Edward Thurman	.. 2 2 0
Josiah Marshall	3	3	0	Samuel Tylecote	.. 2 2 0
William Marshall	2	2	0	Walter Lyon	.. 10 10 0
Daniel Harper	5	5	0	Benjamin Shelton	.. 5 5 0
C. G. Harper	5	5	0	Mrs. Crowley	.. 10 10 0
Gilbert Bradgate	2	2	0	Miss Wright	.. 5 5 0
Mrs. Bradgate	1	1	0	Mrs. Vincent	.. 5 5 0
Mrs. Latham	1	1	0	Miss Greasley	.. 10 0 0
Mrs. Bale	2	2	0	Miss Parr	.. 1 1 0
Servants	0	2	0	Servant of Mrs. Vincent	0 10 6
William Bindley	5	5	0	Mrs. Wilson	.. 10 10 0
Mrs. A. and M. Bindley	5	5	0	Miss Wilson	.. 10 10 0
				Miss March	.. 1 1 0

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.		
Mias Parry	5	5	0	Thomas Britain ..	..	0	5	0
Mrs. W. Brown	5	5	0	George Basset ..	..	0	5	0
William Green	1	1	0	Walter Thompeon ..	..	0	5	0
Charles Masgreaves	0	10	6	Edward Brant ..	..	0	5	0
Mrs. Dawes	2	2	0	William Johnson ..	..	0	2	6
Mrs. Mathews	0	10	6	Thomas Walthew ..	..	0	5	0
Richard Peters	5	5	0	Thomas Walthew, carrier ..	..	0	10	6
Miss Storer and Sister	10	10	0	John Tomlinson ..	..	1	1	0
Pickard and Capenhurst	15	15	0	James Eades ..	..	0	5	0
Elizabeth Jones	1	1	0	Joseph Temple ..	..	0	10	6
Other servants of Mr. Pickard	0	5	0	Richard Hulme ..	..	0	2	6
Richard Freeman	2	2	0	Thomas Paine ..	..	0	5	0
John Newbold	2	2	0	Samuel Freeman ..	..	0	10	6
Richard Bird	2	2	0	William Vincent ..	..	0	10	6
Mrs. Chamberlain	3	3	0	Mrs. Buckenfield ..	..	0	10	6
Joseph Keeling	2	2	0	John Wooton ..	..	0	7	6
James Keeling	1	1	0	Henry Fielders ..	..	0	5	0
John Moore	3	3	0	John Waring ..	..	1	1	0
R. W., shoemaker	0	3	0	Seth Ward ..	..	0	2	6
John Butler	1	1	0	Samuel Hall ..	..	0	5	0
William Moore	1	1	0	John Bailey ..	..	0	10	6
Ann Buggins	0	5	0	Thomas Marshall ..	..	0	10	6
Mr. J. Harding's servants	0	6	0	Joseph Knight ..	..	1	1	0
Peter Harding	1	1	0	Samuel Adams ..	..	1	1	0
Robert Proctor	1	1	0	Joseph Vincent ..	..	0	10	6
Thomas Coton	0	10	6	Thomas Fenton ..	..	0	10	6
Alexander Harding	0	5	0	William Clarke ..	..	0	5	0
John Rawlins	0	5	0	Thomas Campion ..	..	0	5	0
Thomas Hill	0	5	0	Robert Birch ..	..	0	5	0
Robert Kirby	0	5	0	John Marriott ..	..	1	1	0
William Norton, jun.	0	5	0	William Hunter ..	..	1	1	0
Other work-people of the printing works of Messrs. Peel and Co.	3	3	0	John Hall ..	..	2	2	0
Robert Nevill	1	1	0					
Jeremiah Ackeroyd	0	5	0	Josiah Marshall ..	..	5	5	0
Richard Baker	1	1	0	Mrs. Marshall ..	..	2	2	0
Ann Baker	0	5	0	Mr. Marshall's servants ..	..	0	2	6
Isaac Hare	1	1	0	Jeffery Paul ..	..	5	5	0
Mons. Hamel	0	10	6	Mr. Paul's servants ..	..	0	2	6
Thomas Jones	0	5	0	Thomas Fidgeon ..	..	5	5	0
Samuel Whitehouse	3	3	0	William Coton ..	..	1	1	0
William Sadlier	0	10	6	Miss Wright ..	..	5	5	0
Richard Bennet	1	1	0	Miss Wright's servants ..	..	0	5	0
Mrs. Hewitt	0	5	0	Thomas Garratt ..	..	0	10	6
— Wilkinson	0	2	6	Thomss Snape ..	..	0	10	6
Thomas Endors, jun.	0	5	0	Mr. Moggs ..	..	1	1	0
Richard Fielders	0	5	0	Obad Milles ..	..	0	5	0
Thomas Chatterton	0	2	6	Samuel Spooner ..	..	0	5	0
John and Thomas Patrick	0	5	0	Charles Handley ..	..	0	5	0
Mrs. Eleanor Rice	2	0	0	Mrs. Poultney ..	..	0	10	6
Thomas Wallis	2	2	0	Thomas Basset ..	..	0	1	0
William Bentley	1	1	0	Thomas Birch ..	..	0	0	6
					William Spires ..	..	0	1	0
					William Martin ..	..	0	2	6
					Collected at the Chapel ..	..	0	10	6

APPENDIX.

xxx.

FASELEY AND BONEHILL.							
	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Rev. Francis Blick ..	5	5	0	John Freeman ..	1	1	0
The young gentlemen edu-				William Hall ..	0	2	6
cated under the rev.				Thomas Endsor ..	0	5	0
F. Blick ..	12	5	6	Thomas Ordish ..	2	2	0
Servants to Mr. Blick ..	0	10	0	William Key ..	0	2	6
John Pipe ..	5	5	0	John Pratt ..	0	2	6
Thomas Alsager ..	1	1	0	William Marriott ..	0	10	6
Henry Wright ..	1	1	0	Samuel Daulman ..	0	10	6
John Kendall ..	3	3	0	HOPWAS, COTON, WIGGINTON, &C.			
John Buttock ..	0	10	6	John Roe ..	2	2	0
William Webster ..	0	10	6	Peter Birch ..	1	1	0
Joseph Wilcox ..	1	1	0	Humphry Woodcock ..	5	5	0
Thomas Birch ..	0	2	6	Miss C. Jervis ..	3	3	0
James Weston ..	0	2	0	Miss Knight ..	0	10	6
Richard Sadlier ..	0	1	0	Elizabeth Riley ..	0	10	6
Thomas Lago ..	0	5	0	Elizabeth Jackson ..	0	5	0
Samuel Yeomans ..	1	1	0	Elizabeth Cox ..	0	1	0
John Glover ..	0	10	6	Robert Arnold ..	1	1	0
BOLE-HALL AND GLASCOTE.				Elizabeth Glover ..	0	10	6
T. B. Paget, esq. ..	10	10	0	Richard Long ..	0	2	6
J. Hastlow, servant to do. ..	0	2	0	James Pipe ..	1	1	0
William Paul ..	10	10	0	Ralph Marlow ..	0	1	0
Richard Bamford ..	3	3	0	Thomas Proudman ..	0	10	6
Thomas Padmore ..	1	1	0	George Hobday, sen. ..	1	1	0
AMINGTON.				John Russell ..	5	5	0
C. E. Repington, esq. ..	40	0	0	James Haskew ..	0	10	6
William Seal ..	5	5	0	John Haskew ..	0	2	6
				Collected at the Church			
				doors on the fast-day	27	9	4½

Note 20, page 156.

OFFICERS UNDER THE NEW FORM OF
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

MAYORS.

1836	Jan. 1.	Robert Nevill.
1836	Nov. 9.	Joseph Knight.
1837	Nov. 9.	William Parsons, sen.
1838	Nov. 9.	William Parsons, jun.
1839	Nov. 9.	John Hall.
1840	Nov. 9.	Thomas Buckerfield.
1841	Nov. 9.	William Robinson.
1842	Nov. 9.	Thomas Arnold.
1843	Nov. 9.	Thomas Bramall.
1844	Nov. 9.	Thomas Bramall.

ALDERMEN.

1835	Dec. 31.	William Parsons, sen.; Joseph Knight; John Hall; Thomas Buckerfield.
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- 1838 June 22. Robert Nevill in the room of Joseph Knight, deceased.
- 1838 Nov. 9. William Parsons, sen.; Robert Nevill; John Hall; William Parsons, jun.
- 1841 Nov. 9. William Parsons, sen.; Robert Nevill; John Hall; William Parsons, jun.
- 1844 Feb. 19. Thomas Buckerfield in the room of William Parsons, sen., deceased.
- 1844 Nov. 9. Robert Nevill, John Hall, William Parsons, Thomas Buckerfield.

COUNCILLORS.

- 1835 Dec. 26. William Parsons, jun.; John Hall; Joseph Knight; John Butler; Richard Bennet; Richard Bird, jun.; Robert Kirkman Fallows; Robert Nevill; Thomas Arnold; Thomas Buckerfield; Francis Hunter; Robert Fowler.
- 1836 Jan. 9. Samuel Hanson, W. Platts, William Henry Wain, in the room of Alderman Hall, Knight, and Buckerfield.
- 1837 Nov. 1. William Parsons, jun.; Samuel Hanson; William Platts; John Butler; Richard Bennett; Richard Bird, jun.; Robert Kirkman Fallows; Robert Nevill; T. Arnold; W. H. Wain; Francis Hunter; Richard Barratt.
- 1838 Nov. 1. Samuel Hanson; William Platts; John Butler; Richard Bird, jun.; William Robinson; Thomas Arnold; William Henry Wain; Francis Hunter, Richard Barratt; Robert Fowler; Thomas Bramall; R. K. Fallows.
- 1839 Nov. 1. Samuel Hanson; William Platts; John Butler; Richard Bird; William Robinson; William Henry Wain; Francis Hunter; Richard Barratt; Robert Fowler; Thomas Bramall; Robert Kirkman Fallows; William Ruffe.
- 1840 Nov. 2. Samuel Hanson; William Platts; John Butler; William Robinson; William Henry Wain; Francis Hunter; Richard Barratt; Thomas Bramall; William Ruffe; Thomas Arnold; Thomas Buckerfield; Joseph Gray.
- 1841 Nov. 1. William Platts; William Robinson; William Henry Wain; Francis Hunter; Richard Barratt; Thomas Bramall; William Ruffe; Thomas Arnold; Thomas Buckerfield; Joseph Gray; Etienne Bruno Hamel; Samuel Woodcock.
- 1842 Nov. 1. William Platts; William Robinson; Francis

APPENDIX.

xxxiii.

- 1842 Nov. 1. Hunter; Thomas Bramall; Thomas Arnold;
(continued.) Thomas Buckerfield; Joseph Gray; Etienne
 Bruno Hamel; Samuel Woodcock; Felix John
 Hamel; Thomas Brooke Bridges Stevens;
 James Duffy.
- 1843 Nov. 1. William Platts; William Robinson; Francis
 Hunter; Thomas Bramall; Thomas Arnold;
 Thomas Buckerfield; Joseph Gray; Etienne
 Bruno Hamel; Samuel Woodcock; Felix John
 Hamel; Thomas Brooke Bridges Stevens;
 James Duffy.
- 1844 Feb. 23. Robert Cave Browne, in the room of Alderman
 Buckerfield.
- 1844 Nov. 1. William Platts; William Robinson; Francis
 Hunter; Thomas Bramall; Thomas Arnold;
 Robert Cave Browne; Joseph Gray; Etienne
 Bruno Hamel; Samuel Woodcock; Felix John
 Hamel; Thomas Brooke Bridges Stevens;
 James Duffy.
- 1845 Mar. 20. Jonathan Thompson, in the room of James
 Duffy, deceased.

AUDITORS.

- 1836 Mar. 1. Thomas Wainwright, Samuel Watton.
- 1837 Mar. 1. Thomas Wainwright, Samuel Watton.
- 1838 Mar. 1. William Weston, Edmund Eaton.
- 1839 Mar. 1. William Weston, Edmund Eaton.
- 1840 Mar. 2. Edmund Eaton, William Roe.
- 1841 Mar. 1. William Roe, George Flint.
- 1842 Mar. 1. George Flint, Edmund Eaton.
- 1843 Mar. 1. George Flint, Edmund Eaton.
- 1844 Mar. 1. George Flint, Edmund Eaton.
- 1845 Mar. 1. George Flint, Edmund Eaton.

ASSESSORS.

- 1836 Mar. 1. Joseph Keeling, William Weston.
- 1837 Mar. 1. Joseph Keeling, William Weston.
- 1838 Mar. 1. Joseph Keeling, David Arnold.
- 1839 Mar. 1. Joseph Keeling, David Arnold.
- 1840 Mar. 2. David Arnold, John Riley.
- 1841 Mar. 1. David Arnold, George Flint.
- 1842 Mar. 1. David Arnold, James Wallis.
- 1843 Mar. 1. David Arnold, James Wallis.
- 1844 Mar. 1. David Arnold, James Wallis.
- 1845 Mar. 1. David Arnold, James Wallis.

DEPUTY ASSESSORS.

- 1838 George Flint, Joseph Arnold.
 1839 George Flint, Joseph Arnold.
 1840 Joseph Arnold, John Shilton.
 1841 Joseph Arnold, Richard Bennett.
 1842 Joseph Arnold, Richard Bennett.
 1843 Joseph Arnold, Samuel Mottram.
 1844 Joseph Arnold, Samuel Mottram.
 1845 Joseph Arnold, Samuel Mottram.

TOWN CLERK.

- 1836 Francis Willington.

TREASURERS.

Etienne Bruno Hamel, from the 15th of Jan. 1836, to Nov. 1841, when he was elected a member of the council, and William Bindley was appointed Treasurer.

Note 21, page 217.

Hugh de Babbington is mentioned in the Court-rolls of the town, on the Staffordshire side; where a suit occurs between him and John le Blound de Lichfeld, in 1312.

May 14.

Hugo de Babinton, Decanus Ecc'e de Thamworth, invenit pleg', videl' Will'm le Saltere & Will'm Matheu, ad p's' v' Joh'm le Blound de Lychfeld, Cap'l'm, in p'to debiti.

Hugo de Babinton, Decan' Ecc'e de Thamworth, q' v' Joh'em le Blound de Lychfeld, Capell'm, de pl'o debiti, p' Will'm atte cros, p'mo.

June 4.

Joh' le Blond de Lychefeld u' Hugonem de Babynton, Decanum Eccl'e Beate Edithe de Tamworth, de pl'to debiti, p' Rob't'm de Brewode, j^o: qui quid' Hugo, per Will' ad Crucem, attorn' suu', op' se u' p'd'c'm Joh', qui h' diem.

June 25.

Joh'nes le Blound de lych', capell', def' u' Hug' de Babington, decanu' ecc'e de Tameworth, de pl'o deb'i, p' Joh' Hendema', ij^o. Et d'c's Hug' p'sens op' se, & h't die'.

July 16.

Joh'es Blound de Lichfeld, capell', def' u' Hugon' de Babinton, decan' ecc'e de Tamworth, de pl'o debiti, p' Joh'm le Blound de Tamworth, iij^o.

August 6.

Joh'es Blounde de Lychfeld, Capell', defend' p' attornatu' suu' v' Hugon' de Babinton, Tamworth, de pl'o debiti, et p'd'tus Hugo, p' attornatu' suu', et Joh'es h't diem vsq' ad p'x'm in Esson'.

August 27.

Joh'es Blound de Lychfeld et Hugo de Babinton concordati sunt : et p'd'c's Hugo ponit se in m'ia : pl' de m'ia, Will' le Salt'e.

Note 22, page 218.

Many writers, especially Erdeswick and Shaw, have given much concerning the family, whose surname was derived from Hopwas. Perhaps the following particulars, taken from the Court-rolls of Tamworth, may prove of interest to antiquaries.

Alanus filius G. de hop' is named 14 Edw. I.

Nov. 17, 20 Edw. I :—Will's Matheu dat Ric', suo nepoti, t'ciam p't' vni' Burg' in feodo in Com' Stafford, & Matill' fil' Alice de Hopwas, q'rta' p'tem vni' burg' in Comit' Warwykye.

May 23, 23 Edw. I :—Johannes de Hopwas.

July 28, 3 Edw. II :—Staff. Tastatores present' Ric's de Hopwas, p' prava s'uica [cerevisia].

June 12, 3 Edw. II :—Ricardus filius Roberti de Hopwas.

Nov. 6, 6 Edw. II :—It' p' hu' leuatu' int' Ric' de Hopewas & Leticia', sororem suam, & Juliana de Hopewas, ad injuria' p'd'ti Ric' Id'o &c.

June 8, 6 Edw. II :—Ric' de Hopwas in m'. q' maledixit francipleg', in contemptu Cur' : pleg' w eel, Junior.

Sept. 30, 8 Edw. II :—Willielmus de Hopwas.

Nov. 10, 12 Edw. II :—Rog' le Coup'e traxit Will' fil' Joh' de Hopewas iniuste. I'o in misericordia.

Aug. 4, 20 Edw. II :—Will's Herb't no' est p's q'rel' sua' u' Leticiam de Hopewas. Id'o ip'e & pleg' suu' in m'ia, et Letic' sine die.

Octob., 3 Edw. III :—Ric' de Hopewas facit Oleu' iux' vici'os suos, ad abominacio'm & nocumentu' toti' vicinatat'. Et p'p' hoc p'hibet' s'b dj' marc' q' amplius no' tenet' ibi tale domu' &c. ad tale op'.

March, 8 Edw. III :—Hugo de Hopewas.

Octob. 7, 10 Edw. III :—Agnes de Hopewas.

Sept. 30, 16 Edw. III :—Alanus filius Alani de Hopwas.

Octob. 13, 28 Edw. III :—m'ia ij^s It' pr' q'd Will's xij^d s'uiens Hugonis de Hopewas, & Joh'es de Hopewas (xij^d) t'xeru't sang' de Joh'e Juwet, [etc.]

July 9, 43 Edw. III :—Sciant &c q'd nos, Joh'es de Hopewas & Christiana vxor mea, dedimus, &c., Oliuero Clede de Tamworth, capell'o, her' & assign' suis, vnu' messuag, cu' om'ib' p'tin' suis in Tamworth, in Com' Stafford', p'ut iacet in Otewalestrete [etc.]

May 22, 2 Rich. II. Thomas filius Johannis de Hopewas.

Octob. 26, 13 Rich. II. John de Hopewas was one of the jury of the leet.

Jan. 16, 14 Rich. II :—Joh' de Hopewas & C'tiana uxor eius.

March 2, 16 Rich. II :—Radulphus de Hopewas.

May 1, 3 Hen. VI :—Willielmus Hopewas.

May 11, 29 Hen. VI :—Tastatores pres' ij^d. Nich' us Hopewas, p' obstup' j fossat' ap^d Walleforlong.

Jan. 17, 30 Hen. VI :—Ad istam Cur', venit Rad'us hopewas & fec' fine' cu' Ball'is p' inquisico'e h'end' quis est p'x' heres Ric'o Sampson & Joh'e filio eius : & dicit q'd Ric'us Sampson & Ric' Dawte descend' de duabus sororibus, & dict' Ric' & Joh'es obier' sine hered' : & de dict' Ric'o Dawte descend' Alic' fil' eius, & nupt' fuit Joh'i Hopewas, & de p'dict Alic' descend' Rad'o hopewas, modo pet' & c., per sacr'm Ric'i Dalton, Humfr' Jacobe, Nich'i Smyth, Henr' Couper, Joh'is Prynce, Thome Mathew, Joh'es Rote, Thome Juet, Ric'i Rugeley, Joh'is Starky, Joh' Belgrave, & Joh' Geffrey, & Joh' Joyner, iurat' sup' sacr'm suu' quod Radulphus Hopewas est p'x' heres Ricardi Sampson.

Henricus, dei gra' Rex Anglie & Francie, & D'us Hib'n', Balliuis suis de Tamworth salutem. Precipim' vob' q'd iuste & sine dil'one & s'c'd'm consuetudinem manerij de Tamworth, plenum rectum teneatis Rad'o Hopewas de vno mesuagio cum p'tin' in Tamworth, quod Joh'es Bate cl'icus, Ric'us Goldeson, & Ric'us Eme ei deforc'. Ne ampl' inde clam' aud' p' def'tu' recti. T' me ip'o apud Westm., xxviij die Nouembr., Anno r.n. tricesimo.

Feb. 6, 30 Hen. VI :—Rad'us hopewas, qui tulit breue d'ni Reg' p'uu' v's Joh' Bate, cl'icum, Ric'm Goldesone, & Ric'm Eme, in placito terre, mortuus est.

Feb. 27, 30 Hen. VI :—Henricus, dei graacia Rex Precipimus vobis quod plenum rectum teneatis Will'o fil' Rad'i hopewas de vno mesuagio cum p'tin' in Tamworth quod Joh'es Bate cl'icus, Will's Newport Armig', Ric'us Goldeson, & Ric'us Eme ei' defore'. Ne ampl' inde clam' aud' p' def'tu' recti. T' me ip'o apud Westm', xxvj die Januarij, Anno r. n. tricesimo.

October, 30 Hen. VI :—Nicholaus hopewas.

Note 23, page 223.

"To all men, to whom this p'sent wrytyng trip'tyd indentyd schall Come, Dame Dorothe Ferrers, widow, late the wyffe of S' John Ferrers, knyght, sendith gretyng in our Lord god Eu'lastyng, Whereas I, the seyd Dorothe, By my Dede indentyd datyd the xx^d day of octobr in the xxij yere of y^e Reign of our sou'eign Lord, kyng Henry y^e viij, haue enfeofed Will'm Repyngton of lytyll Amyngton, Gent., fraunces repyngton, his son and heire apparant, John Jeks of Tamworth, in the countie of Warr., Gentilma', Richard Jeks, his son And heire apparant, Thomas wodshaw of tamworth aforseyd, chapma', John wodshaw, his son and heire apparant, Thomas Golson of Tamworth, yema', homfrey Golson, his son and heire apparant, Richard Coton of

Coton, yema', John coton, his son and heire apparant, nycholas Golson of Drayton basset, yema', John Golson, his son and heire apparant, John Darlaston of wigginton, John Darlaston, his son and heire apparant, Nycholas melburn late of Wigginton, yeman, John melburn, his son and heire apparant, their heires And assignes, of and in eon Burgage in tamworth aforseid, lying in the stret called le Butcher, And extendith in bred'e betwixt the burgage of humfrey Ferrers, esquier, my son and here, on the on p'te, And the Burgage of John Jeks on the other p'tie, and extentheth in lengthe from the kyng's hye way to the Grounde of the Vicars of the colege of saynt Edith of tamworth, Wich I, the seyde Dame Dorothe, late p'ched of on Richard Bowris of Northampton; And of all other my lands and ten'ts, medowes, leesees, pastur', And other hereditaments, w^t their Appurten'nces, lying & beyng in The fee of Wigginton, In the Countie of staff, wich I, the seyde Dame Dorothe, lately purchased of oon Raffe lago to the vse of me, the seyde Dame Dorothe, and for the p'formance of my last will. know y^e that my full mynde, will, and intent is that My seyde feffees, their heirs and assignes for eu', schall suffer the baillies of the toun of tamworth aforesayd And their successors, for the tyme beyng, yerely to receyue and take all the rents, issues, and p'fits, comyng And Growyng out or by reson of the seyde burgage, land, and ten'ts, And other the p'misses for eu', to the uses and intents hereaft' ensuyng: that is to sey, I will that the same baillies And their successors, for the tyme beyng, schall for eu' the xj day of the Monyth of July, cause a obbit to be kept in the church of seynt Edith in tamworth aforesayd, with all the hool quere there, And to haue a solemn dirig to be song in the evenyng of the same day, And masse of requiem on the next morow, then specially to pray for the soule of the said Sr. John Ferrers my late husband, and the soule of me, the seyde Dame Dorothe, the soules of willm. harp' esquier and margaret his wiff my father & mother, and all Cristen soules. And I will y^e eu'y of the vicars seruyng in the seyde church And beyng at y^e seyde Dirge and seying mass on the morow for the soules Aforenamed, haue, for his labur, vjd. It'm, to eu'y of the too Decons in the seyde church, iijd. It'm, for ryngyng of the too Cnylls, viijd. It'm, for the hyre of iiij tapurs to bren about the herse, in the tyme of the seyde servis, viijd. It'm, to the belman of tamworth aforesayd, for the tyme Beyng, ijd. It'm, to be dely'd the seyde tyme yerly to pooer people dwellyng in the seyde toun of Tamworth att ther houses, by the discesion of the seyde baillies, for y^e tyme Beyng, vjs. viijd. It'm, my mynd is that Eu'y on of the iiij baillies of tamworth Aforesayd schall offer, Eu'y on of them, a ob' at the seyde masse of requiem; and Eu'y on of them to take iiij for ther labur in executyng this my Will

of suche money as they schall receyue of the rents of the seyde Burgag and other the p'mises. It'm, I will y^t they vicars of the seyde church, for the tyme beyng, schall yerely have viijd. to pray for the soules aforeseyd in their bedroll. It'm, I will y^t the seyde ballies of Tamworth And ther successors, for the tyme Beyng, schall yerely pay vn to the Grey frerys att lychfeld ijs. iiijd., soo that y^e same frerys for eu', the seyde xj day of the monyth of July, syng dirig by nite in the Monast'y, And masse of Requiem the next moroo foloyng, specially for my seyde husband's soule, And Myne, and for the soules of the seyde will'm harp' and Marg'et his wiff my father & mother, & all Cristen soules. And eu'y frere in the said house there, beyng preest, to sey, the same Day or ells one day in the same Weke, oon masse of requiem for the soules aforehered. It'm, I will in lyke wise that the frerys att Aderston schall yerely have ijs. to syng dirige, And masse of requiem in ther monast'y, the seyde Deys, for the soules of the p'sons afornamed. and further, I will that yff ther be iij or iiij soull preests, wich schall for fortune to s've in the seyde church of Tamworth att such tyme as the seyde yer' mynd or obit schalbe kept, then I will eu'y of them haue iiijd., soo that they sey dirige and masse of requiem the seyde tyme, for the soules aforhered. And my fa'ther will and mynd is y^t, aft' all thes payments and chags in forme aforeseyd be payd borne and also all cheif rents and other yerely charges and suites hereaft' Goyng out or to be due by reson of the seyde Burgag, lands, t'ents, And other the p'mises, be truly Content and payd, then the resydue of the money, wich schalbe Receyued and taken of the rents, issues, & p'fits, Commyng or growyng of, or by reson of, the seyde burgage, lands, ten'ts, And other the p'mises to be put in a Box lockyd, whereof the seyde Bayllies to kepe the key, and then to be dely'ved to suche a preist in the seyde church of tamworth, which is comynly called seint Georg's preiste, for the tyme Beyng, and he safly to kepe the same, to thentent that the seyde Money, wich soo remaynyth schall maynteyn, beer, and kepe all man' of repparracons and other chargs, wich schalbe nessessary or ought to Be Doon upon or by reson of the p'mises or eny p'cell theroff.

D. F.

Note 24, page 238.

Since we wrote the History of the Church, a clerical change has taken place. Early in the present year, the rev. R. C. Savage was presented by the Queen to the vicarage of Nuneaton, in Warwickshire; and he has in consequence resigned this living. Captain à Court has subsequently appointed the rev. E. Harston, M. A., both as vicar and perpetual curate of the Church.

NAMES OF CHURCHWARDENS.

From the Court Rolls, Pariah Register, &c.

- 1455 John Fletcher.
- 1456 John Goldson, John Geffrey. (Oct. 26.)
- 1470 Peter Goabout, John Woodshaw. (Oct. 23.)
- 1488 Richard Woodshaw, William Green. (Nov.)
- 1505 Richard Breton, John Irp. (Oct. 21.)
- 1507 Richard Breton, Thomas Goldson. (Nov.)
- 1508 John Gillot, Nicholas Symond. (Oct.)
- 1509 John Jekes, John Irp. (Oct. 15.)
- 1511 Richard Breton, Richard Coton. (Nov.)
- 1598 William Wightwick, Nicholas Vaughton.
- 1599 Robert Lysatt, Edward Taylor.
- 1600 Ralph Dawman, Christopher Wilcox.
- 1601 Robert Gratwick, Henry Hall.
- 1602 Richard Cheattle, Thomas Vaughton.
- 1603 George Onion, John Vaughton.
- 1604 John Keeling, Thomas Allen.
- 1605 John Hall, Richard Seale.
- 1606 Clement Joell, Richard Onion.
- 1607 Rowland Frances, Henry Hill.
- 1608 Thomas Massy, Henry Wilcox.
- 1609 Ambrose Hood, John Wright.
- 1610 Richard Fletcher, William Farmer.
- 1611 John Oldrich, Erasmus Mousley.
- 1612 John Sharp, John Vale.
- 1613 Hugh Clerke, William Elliott.
- 1614 Richard Wright, William Earp.
- 1615 Adam Turton, Richard Wright.
- 1616 John Seale, Richard Lattimer.
- 1617 John Bache, Christopher Harthill.
- 1618 John Nicholson, Richard Harding.
- 1619 Edward Willington, Christopher Wilcox.
- 1620 Thomas Kebb, Richard Mousley.
- 1628 W. Smith, J. Ellis.
- 1635 George Orton, Francis Freeman.
- 1660 Walter Ashmore, John Osborn.
- 1661 Gerard Wagstaff, Cornelius Osborn.
- 1662 Thomas Jones, John Sutton.
- 1663 Thomas Carter, John Dawes.
- 1664 Gilbert Jordan, John Vaughton.
- 1665 Francis Wood, John Bankes.
- 1666 Robert Peake, Edward Smith.
- 1667 Edward Smith.
- 1668 John Clifton, Thomas Batman.

- 1669 William Wilcox, Josiah Newey.
- 1670 Thomas Talbut, William Michell.
- 1671 Thomas Pratt, Richard Hair.
- 1672 Joseph Key, Joseph Batman.
- 1673 William Cawne, William Harding.
- 1674 Francis Wright, William Wilcox.
- 1676 Morgan Powell, Robert Green.
- 1677 Charles Baynton, Edmund Chamberlain.
- 1678 William Ashley, Isaac Orton.
- 1679 Edward Drayton, William Hazeldine.
- 1680 Thomas Roades, Joseph Radford.
- 1681 John Varnham, Robert Cawne.
- 1682 Samuel Orton, George Wright.
- 1683 Daniel Jordan, David Read.
- 1684 Edward Symonds, Richard Weaman.
- 1685 Samuel Buckland.
- 1686 John Vaughton, Francis Wood.
- 1687 Thomas Talbut, Thomas Wagstaff.
- 1688 William Harding.
- 1690 William Harding, Charles Parker.
- 1692 George Wagstaff.
- 1693 Edward Bradgate, John Bankes.
- 1694 Richard Weaman, Joseph Batman.
- 1695 Samuel Orton, John Dawes.
- 1702 George Hood, Joseph Wilcox.
- 1703 Thomas Homer, John Harthill.
- 1710 John Vaughton sen., John Uby.
- 1726 Beilby Laycock, Thomas Vaughton.
- 1728 William Pickard, John Lattimer.
- 1730 Joseph Hood, Abraham Waterson.
- 1759 John Vaughton, James Dawes.
- 1760 Thomas Freeman, Nathaniel Crosland.
- 1761 John Kendal, John Waterson.
- 1762 John Kendal, William Bishop.
- 1763 John Kendal, William Bishop.
- 1764 Nathaniel Crosland, William Bishop.
- 1765 Nathaniel Crosland, Walter Howe.
- 1766 Thomas Nicholls, Walter Howe.
- 1767 John Blood, Samuel Ball.
- 1768 George Godfrey, William Weston.
- 1769 George Godfrey, Job Hunter.
- 1770 Joseph Heath, Job Hunter, They continued
until 1773.
- 1773 Edward Panton, William Dyll.
- 1774 Edward Panton, William Dyll.
- 1775 John Bindley, Henry Watterson.

- 1776 George Godfrey, Henry Watterson. Both continued until 1781.
- 1781 George Godfrey, John Bindley. Both continued until 1787.
- 1787 George Godfrey, Joseph Heath. They continued until 1789.
- 1789 George Godfrey, John Bindley.
- 1790 George Godfrey, John Bindley. On the 4th of July, Thomas Shearsby was chosen, in the place of G. Godfrey, deceased.
- 1791 Thomas Shearsby, Josiah Marshall.
- 1792 Thomas Shearsby, Josiah Marshall. On the 17th of December, James Yeomans was chosen in place of J. Shearsby, who left the town.
- 1793 James Yeomans, Robert Panton. They continued until 1797.
- 1797 Robert Panton, Edward Thurman. They continued until 1800.
- 1800 James Yeomans, Edward Thurman. They continued until 1804.
- 1804 Robert Panton, Edward Thurman. They continued until 1807.
- 1807 Edward Thurman, Josiah Marshall. They continued until 1813.
- 1813 William Parsons, Joseph Knight.
- 1814 Edward Thurman, Richard Bennett. They continued until 1819.
- 1819 Edward Thurman, Richard Bennett.
John Hall.
- 1820 Edward Thurman, John Hall. They continued until 1823.
- 1823 John Hall, William Parsons jun.
- 1824 John Hall, Thomas Marshall.
- 1825 Richard Peters, Thomas Marshall.
- 1826 Richard Barratt, Thomas Marshall. They continued until 1829.
- 1829 Thomas Marshall, Thomas Bindley.
- 1830 Thomas Marshall, Richard Barratt. They continued until 1833.
- 1833 Thomas Marshall, Thomas Arnold.
- 1834 Charles J. Berrie, Thomas Arnold.
- 1835 Thomas Arnold, Etienne Bruno Hamel.
- 1836 Thomas Arnold, Etienne Bruno Hamel.
- 1837 Francis Hunter, Etienne Bruno Hamel.
- 1838 Francis Hunter, Thomas Bramall. They continued until 1842.

1842 John Butler, Thomas Bramall. They continued until 1844.

1844 John Butler, Etienne Bruno Hamel.

1845 John Felthouse, Job Castle Righton.

Note 25, page 252.

NAMES OF THE KEEPERS OF THE LIGHTS.

From the Court Rolls.

		HOLY TRINITY	B. V. MARY	ST. GEORGE	ST. KATH- ERINE.	S. NICHOLAS
Oct. 23	1479	Rob. Goldson	Rob. Goldson		Tho. Weaver	Tho. Weaver
Nov.	1488	Rob. Shepherd				Nich. Moore
Oct. 21	1505		Rich. Cotton	Tho. Tovy		Rich. Clarke
Nov.	1507		Will. Howth	John Hill		Jno. Lysott
Oct.	1508		Ralph Smith	Rich. Alcock		Jno. Swipson
Oct. 16	1509		Steph. Barrow	Nich. Bishop		Rich. Cotton
Nov.	1511		Nich. Webster	John Mason		Jno. Green
Oct. 18	1516	Tho. Darlaston				Jno. Ropington

The fragment of a court-roll, the date of which is gone, but apparently of the reign of Henry VIII., gives the following statement.

Roger Ashwood was elected, for the year, keeper of the light of St. Nicholas; and there remained in the box delivered to him 6s.

Nicholas Webster was chosen, for the year, keeper of the light of the Holy Trinity; and there remained in the box delivered to him, 2s. 6d.

Henry Irpe was elected, for the year, keeper of the light of St. George; and there remained in the box delivered to him, 11s. 6d.

Note 26, page 349.

Extracts relating to the lords of Tamworth-Castle, etc., taken from the "Calnedarium inquisitionum post mortem sive escaetarium."

Anno 20 E. I., no. 36.

PHILIPPUS MARMYON.

LINCOLN'. Scrivelby maner' & baronia extent'. Lincoln' messuag' ib'm. Langeton maner' extent'.

WARR'. Middelton maner' extent'. Sutton boscus cum chaceas.

HERSFORD'. Frene maner'. Lestrys maner'. Bradford maner' extent'.

SALOP'. Kilpeck feod'. Purlebeck maner'. Hokelith ball'in forest'.

OXON'. Chakenden maner' extent'. Stoke Marmion maner'.

WIGORN'. Charleton feod'.

WARR'. Dedon, Waverton Fresell, Witacre, Drakenegg, La Lee, Fellingley,—feoda.

LEICESTR'. Langeton, Wanestanston maner', Fleckney, Shake-

lesston maner', Snarkeston, Barton, Cungeston, Odeston maner', Sutton, Wistenestow eccl'ia, Stanton maner' eccl'ia, Sharneford, Schenesby, Aymeresthorp, Frodesworth, Mouseley, Somerdby, Ereburgh,—*feoda*.

LEICESTER'. Quinton maner' cum Rodbret,—*feoda*.

SUSSEX'. Berewike maner' eccl'ia,—*feoda*.

STAFFORD'. Tamworth eccl'ia cum sex prebend' in eadem & de valore eorum,—*feoda*.

LINCOLN'. Wintringham maner', Wollingham juxta Lincoln', Trikingham, Stowe, Kisebye, Foulestowe, Suthlangeton, Scrivelby maner', Thakewell,—*feoda*.

WARR'. Pirycrofte maner',¹ Glascote maner', Tamworthe maner',—*feoda*.

Anno 23 E. I., no. 55.

JOH'A DE MORTHEYN.

SALOP'. Pulrebatche maner' extant'.

WARR'. Tamworth Castr' extant'. Poleye maner'. Aschelond 4 acr' cum piscaria in Auncre. Middelton maner' extant'. Freseley, Overwitacre, Netherwitacre, Drakenegge,—*feoda*.

Anno 8 E. II., no. 45.

MARIA UXOR PHILIPPI DE MARMYON.

WARR'. Middelton maner' 3 part' extant' tenetur de ecclesia s'ce Edythe de Thomworth.

LINCOLN'. Wilkysby unum croftum 36 acr' terr' 3 acr' dimid' rod' prat' &c. Dalderby una placea terr' & 9s. 2d. reddit'. Coningysby una acr' & 3 rod' prat'.

Feoda.

STAFFORD'. Tomorthe prebend' in ecclesia collegiali ib'm valens 4l. &c. LINCOLN'. Wintringham & Wylingham 4 feod'. Trikingham 4 part' feod'. Kesby unum feod'. Foulestowe 2 part' feod'. Wilkesbye tertia presentatio eccl'iae.

Anno 2 E. III., no. 34.

ALEXANDER DE FREVILL.

HEREF'. La Ferne, Bradeford,—quedam tenementa ib'm p servic' 6te p'tis j feod' apud Kilpeck castrum.

WILTES'. Wynterburne. Assherton maner'.

WARR'. Tamworth castr'. Middelton maner' 3 tia p's.

Anno 13 E. III., no. 14.

JOH'A UXOR ALEXANDRI DE FREVILL.

WARWIC'. Tamworthe castrum.

WILTES'. Asserton maner'.

¹ At this time, the manor of Perrycroft was held in capite, by service of finding fuel and litter for the king's chamber, whenever he should come to Tamworth. The litter served for the royal carpet.

Anno 17 E. III., no. 37.

BALDEWINUS DE FRYVILL.

NORFOLC'. Welyngham maner' ext'.

HEREFORD'. Tatindon Magna ext'. De la Ferne maner' ext'.
Kylpeck maner'.

WILTS'. Yatesbury un' toft' &c.

WIGORN'. Crowneste hamelet ext'. Rughall maner' ext'.

WARWIC'. Tamworth castrum & terr'. Middelton maner'.

STAFFORD'. Wyginton terr' parcell' castri de Tamworth. Drayton molend'. Tamworth terr' &c.

Anno 49 E. III., no. 57.

BALDEWINUS DE FREVILL CH'R.

WILTS'. Yatesbury villa un' caruc' terr'.

LINCOLN'. Wilsby & Conyngesby 14 acr' terr'.

WARWIC'. Tamworth castrum & maner'. Middelton maner' 4 pars. De la Lee maner' extent'. Pathelowe, Chesterton, Wyshawe, Freseleye, Merston juxta Kynnesbury, Crodeshall,—terr' & ten'. Stretford juxta Tamworth maner'. Shortley maner'. Beaudesert maner' & castrum. Henley maner'. Whitcherch maner'. Wellesburne maner'. Mountford maner'.

HEREFORD'. Tadinton maner' extent'. Bradford maner' extent'. Mawene maner' extent'.

STAFFORD'. Tamworth advoc' collegij. Wyginton terr'.

Feoda.

WARWIC'. Waverton. Redbrok. Radclive. Derdon. Whitacre. Fresby. Pole. Dagenigge. La Lee. Odeston. Shakerston. Sharnesford. Shenesby. Aylmerthorp. Somerdeby. Langdon juxta Kibworth. Sparkesdon. Wistanston. Tamworth castrum.

Anno 11 R. II., no. 27.

BALDEWINUS FRYVILL CH'R ET IDA UXOR EJUS.

SURRE'. Redestone unum tenement' 56 acr' terr' et 4 acr' prati.

WILTS'. Yatesburye maner'. Calne maner'.

WIGORN'. Beckenoure unum messuag' una virgata terr' 10 acr' prat'. Hambury juxta Wych sect' cur'.

STAFFORD'. Frerorchard garden' & 40^d reddit' in Tamworth et quinque prebend' in eccl'ia colleg' ib'm.

LINCOLN' ET WARWIC'. Wilkesby juxta Marum duo messuag' et una virgata terr' parcell' maner' de Middelton.

NOTTS'. Gunthorpe et Ludham maner' ut de honore de Leicestr'.

HEREFORD'. World Ende maner' extent'. Marshmavene maner' dimid' extent'. Bradforde maner'. Verne maner'.

WARR'. Tamworth castrum extent'. Poleye maner' redditus. Freseley 6^d redditus.

Feoda.

WARR'. Fylongley dimid' feod'. Warton tenement'. Derdon unum feod'. Freseley 3 pars feodi. Whitacre dimid' feod'. Warton 4^{ta} pars feodi. Drakeneche et Whitacre unum feod'. Polley unum feod'. Hordeburg advoc' ecclesie.
 LEICESTR'. Snarkeston, Coningeston, Shakston, Odeston, Barton, Sutton juxta Boseworth, Stapleton, Leyre, Wistenstowe et Flekeney,—*tria feoda*. Aylmesthorpe, Sharnford, Froleworthe, Shethesby, Mauseley et Somerby,—*unum feod'*. Stanton unum feod'. Burgh unum feod'. Radeclif cert' terr'.

Anno 2 H. IV., no. 46.

BALDEWINUS FREVILL CHIVALER.

SURRE'. Ashstede maner' extent'.
 WARR'. Tamworth castrum. Middelton due partes manerii. Wiken maner' juxta Coventr'. Lee maner'. Merston maner'. Stipershull cur' cum warrena de. Stratford juxta Tamworth maner'. Shorley maner' juxta Coventr'.
 NOTTS'. Gunthorp maner'. Loudham maner'.

Anno 6 H. V., no. 47.

BALDEWINUS FREVILL CHIVALER FIL' B. FREVILL CHIVALER.

WARR'. Stipershull cur' et warennia de. Middelton tertia pars manerii.
 LEICESTR'. Snarkeston, Coningeston, Shakeston, Odeston, Barton, Sutton juxta Boseworth, Stapleton, Leire, Wystenstowe et Flekeney,—*tria feoda milit'*. Aylmesthorpe, Sharnford, Frollesworth, Shetheby, Mauseley et Somerby,—*unum feod' milit'*. Borough unum feod' milit'. Radecliffe tertia pars unius feodi militis.

Omnia supradicta pertinent castro de Tamworth.

WILTES'. Yatesbury mess' & terr' ut de castro de Devises.
 WARR'. Tamworth castrum cum membr' et feod' pertin'. Stipershull cur' & warennia. Middelton tertia pars maner'. Warton decem messuagia cum terris pratis &c. Bendesert medietas maner'.

Anno 37 H. VI., no. 34.

THOMAS FERRERS ARMIGER.

STAFFORD'. Tetenhale maner' et advoc' capellæ extent'. Tamworth redd' assis' 9s. ib'm. Wygynton 7 acr' terr, et 2 acr' prat' ib'm. Drayton Basset prat' ib'm vocat' "Les Plekkes" et "Rayles" i croft' ibidem vocat' "Lady Mylneholme" alias vocat' "Bayle Acr'" —plac' et pastur' ibidem vocat' "Le old Damme" et separal' piscar' ibidem per metas. Kynggeswood juxta Wrottesley cert' terr' et pastur' ibidem vocat' "Blakelighes."

SALOP'. Bradford hundr' et ball'ia. Claverle maner' extent'.

WARB'. Tamworth castrum et maner' extent' partic' cum piscar' &c. Hardburg maner' et advoc' eccl'ie. Stipursull 3^{ta} pars cur', Flekenho maner'. Flekenho i feod' per ducem Norfolc'. Wolfhamcote i feodi per Joh'em Peyto. Nethercote medietas unius feod' per hered' Roberti Cany. Fylongley 3^{ta} pars medietatis unius feodi per hered' domini Hastyngs. Dodbroke et Waverton 3^{ta} pars unius feodi per hered' Walteri Cuky. Waverton et Dordon 3^{ta} pars feodi per hered' Roberti Crendon. Overwhitacre et Frealey 3^{ta} pars dimid' feod' et 3^{ta} pars trium partium feod' per hered' Jordani de Whitacre. Waverton 3^{ta} pars quartæ partis unius feod' per hered' Mich'is Longdon : ac 3^{ta} pars quintæ partis feod' ib'm per hered' Willi de Fago. Frealey 3^{ta} pars tertie partis feodi per hered' Georgii de Frealey. Netherwhitacre et Draknage 3^{ta} pars feod' per hered' Egid' fil' Rad'i. Poley 3^{ta} pars feod' per hered' Joh'is Cokayn militis.

LEICESTR'. Smarkeston, Comynston, Shakerston, Oddeston, Barton, Sutton juxta Bosseworth, Stapleton, Leyre, Wystowe et Flekeneye,—3^{ta} pars trium feod' et dimid' feod' ib'm per hered' com' Pembroc'. Elmeathorpe, Sharnesford, Frellesworth, Thethby, Mousley et Somerby 3^{ta} pars feod' per hered' Will'i Mariward. Stanton 3^{ta} pars feod' per hered' Rad'i Basset de Sapcote. Radcliffe 3^{ta} pars feod' per hered' Rogeri Ardern. Burgh 3^{ta} pars feod' per hered' Roberti Burgh. Langton juxta Kybworth 3^{ta} pars dimid' feod' per hered' Ivonis Langton.

DERB'. Walton super Trentam maner' et advoc' eccl'ie extent. Trent piscar' in aqua.

OXON'. Heth maner' ut de com' Gloucestr'.

EASEX'. Champeyns (in Woodham Ferrers) maner'. Ilgers et Lacchelees ib'm cert' terr' et tenement' sic vocat'. Woodham Ferrers maner'. Gyngjoyberd Laundry maner'. Woodham Ferrers maner'. Herewardestok advoc' eccl'ie. Merkes (juxta Dunmore) maner' ut de ducatu Lancastr'.

4 H. VIII. no. 1. DOROTHEA QUE FUIT UXOR JOHANNIS FERRERS MILITIS DEFUNCTI.

Assignatio dotis

DERB'. Walton terr' ten' et redd' et tercia p'sentacio eccl'ie.

Note 27, page 397

We here give the particulars of the estate at the time of the sale. A few of admeasurements will be found to differ slightly from those stated in the disposal of the property to Mr. Robins.

LIBERTY OF THE CASTLE.

LOT 1. The manors of Tamworth-Castle and Stipershill, with

Wareton, and Bolehall and Glascote : fisheries of the rivers Tame and Anker, the former, with certain parts of the banks, being subject to the annual rent of 10*l.* then payable to the right hon. sir Robert Peel, bart. : the residence of the Castle, with grounds &c. of about 3*a.*

Lot 2. Plantation of 1*r.* 21*p.*, close of 11*a.* 5*p.*, two gardens of 3*r.* 34*p.*, drying ground and two plantations of 1*a.* 2*p.*, close of 7*a.* 3*r.* 19*p.*, plantation of 2*a.* 26*p.*,—let on a lease of 21 years from 1823, at a rent of 60*l.*, to lieut. col. Dickenson.

Lot 3. Little Brick-kiln close of 2*a.* 3*r.* 35*p.*, Further Thistly field of 6*a.* 16*p.*, Little Meadow of 2*a.* 3*r.* 7*p.*, Hilly piece of 3*a.* 3*r.* 5*p.*, Lower Barn close North of 4*a.* 1*r.* 9*p.*, Lower Barn close South of 3*a.* 3*r.* 20*p.*, Upper Barn close South of 3*a.* 1*r.* 28*p.*, Upper Barn close North of 2*a.* 2*r.* 10*p.*, Barn and yard of 1*r.* 4*p.*, Coal-pit close of 4*a.* 2*r.* 26*p.*, Hilly piece of 5*a.* 2*p.*, Great Brick-kiln close of 4*a.* 2*r.* 13*p.*, a plantation of 20*p.*, Aldridge's piece of 3*a.* 2*r.* 37*p.*, the Five Acres of 4*a.* 2*r.* 39*p.*, Snell's orchard of 9*a.* 1*r.* 36*p.*, ozier-bed and land gained by the river-side of 2*a.* 1*r.* 24*p.*, Nether Thistley field of 7*a.* 20*p.*;—with a farm-house and out-buildings.

Lot 4. Park-close of 6*a.* 3*p.*, barn and yards of 32*p.*, Barn piece of 10*a.* 34*p.*

Lot 5. Close of 3*r.* 13*p.* Lower and Upper Park-pieces forming one field of 3*a.* 3*r.* 38*p.*, Close of 2*a.* 3*r.* 18*p.*, Lower Park-piece of 2*a.* 3*r.* 19*p.*, Upper Park-piece of 3*a.* 28*p.*

Lot 6. Little Coal-pit close of 4*a.* 37*p.*, Great Coal-pit close of 6*a.* 3*r.* 22*p.*

Lot 7. A dwelling-house, with a garden and Upper Park close of 3*a.* 1*r.* 35*p.*, Lower Park piece of 3*a.* 3*r.* 8*p.*

Lot 8. An Inn, with lime-kilns, stone-quarry, brick-kilns, 2 cottages and gardens, of 25*a.* 3*r.* 32*p.*; and a close of 8*a.* 2*r.* 7*p.*

Lot 9. Ozier-bed of 3*r.* 16*p.*, Alport's holme of 1*a.* 2*r.*, Park meadow of 5*a.* 30*p.*, lower Park meadow of 4*a.* 2*r.* 34*p.*, Aquaduct piece of 5*a.* 35*p.*, Lower Park of 3*a.* 5*p.*, Wood-field of 2*a.* 9*p.*, Horse-closes of 9*a.* 2*r.* 37*p.*, wood of 1*r.* 13*p.*, a close of 4*a.* 2*r.* 28*p.*, with barn and stable, and a close of 3*a.* 1*r.* 27*p.*

LORDSHIP OF FAZELEY.

Lot 10. Mill-meadow of 2*a.* 1*r.*, Mill-holme of 7*a.* 3*r.* 7*p.*

Lot 11. Meadow, garden, and Wash-wheel cut of about 10*a.* 3*r.* 2*p.*

LORDSHIP OF BOLEHALL AND GLASCOTE.

Lot 12. Allport close of 4*a.* 39*p.*

Lot 13. Allport close of 2*a.* 3*r.* 25*p.*

- Lor 14. Allport close and garden of 3a. 1r. 36p.
 Lor 15. Two enclosures of garden,—Allport close of 4a. 1r. 12p.
 Lor 16. Allport close—garden—of 1a. 3r. 33p.
 Lor 17. Two inclosures of 2a. 2r. 4p. and 1a. 2r. 18p.
 Lor 18. Four inclosures of 31p., 3r. 37p., 1a. 2r. 3p., 1a. 1r. 20p.
 Lor 19. A close of 4a. 1r. 12p., another of 3a. 1r. 25p., a cottage and garden of 30p.
 Lor 20. A close of 5a. 1r. 39p., two more conjointly of 4a. 3r. 28p.
 Lor 21. Nether-close of 4a. 1r. 27p., Middle-close of 4a. 1r. 6p., lower Middle-close of 3a. 1r. 31p., Lane-close of 3a. 3r. 15p., Barn-close of 5a. 3r. 6p., barn and yards of 1r. 2p., Rick-yard close of 4a. 1p., a coppice of 4a. 25p., Upper Middle-close of 5a. 3r. 33p., part of Far-close of 5a. 15p.; with coal-mines, which with those comprised in the two next lots, were let on lease for 14 years from Lady-day, 1831, renewable at option for 7 years, at a royalty of 1s. per ton of 120lbs. when worked, and a rent of 150l. per annum, whether worked or not,—the royalty forming a part,—with power to open and dig for coals, a surface rent of 3l. per acre for land occupied being also paid.
 Lor 22. Allotment on the heath of 4a. 1r. 34p.; a cottage, barn, yard, garden, and meadow, of about 1a. 25p.
 Lor 23. A close of 7a. 17p., Barn-close of 5a. 1r. 9p., Elm-tree close of 5a. 1r. 26p., common close of 5a. 1r. 17p., Middle close of 4a. 3r. 24p., Four Acres close of 4a. 14p., Glascote-heath close of 3a. 3r. 9p., the Segs close of 6a. 3r. 2p.
 Lor 24. Hopley close, divided into two, of 5a. 3r. 9p., Dabbs', Hopley, or Spring close, also divided, of 4a.
 Lor 25. Hopley close of 4a. 1r. 31., part of the same of 2a. 2r. 35p.
 Lor 26. Stable and yard of 8p., garden of 20p., orchard of 1r. 36p., barn and rick-yard of 20p., Hopley close of 3a. 1r. 15p., Hopley close of 4a. 23p., ditto of 7a. 2r. 24p., ditto of 1a. 2r. 30p.
 Lor 27. Two closes of 2a. 9p. and 1a. 2r. 10p.
 Lor 28. Two closes of 2a. 2r. 12p. and 2a. 3r. 31p.
 Lor 29. A close of 3a. 19p.
 Lor 30. A close of 3a. 1r. 7p.
 Lor 31. A close of 2a. 2r. 19p., garden of 24p., and close of 2a. 2r. 32p.
 Lor 32. Cottage and land of 3r. 20p.
 Lor 33. Garden ground of 2a. 3r. 33p.
 Lor 34. Garden, close, and garden of 1a. 1r. 13p., 1a. 2r. 1p., 1a. 2r. 17p.
 Lor 35. A close of 3a. 23p.

- Lot 36. A garden of 2a. 10p.
- Lot 37. A close of 1a. 3r. 34p.
- Lot 38. Gardens of 3a. 27p. and 20p.
- Lot 39. Two closes of 2a. 2r. 39p. and 2a. 3r. 36p.
- Lot 40. Three closes of 3r. 34p., 3r. 34p., and 1a. 3r. 33p.
- Lot 41. Three closes of 2a. 2r. 15p., 1a. 2r. 9p., 1a. 1r. 17p., and part of Vincent's meadow of 2a. 1r. 8p.

LORDSHIP OF AMINGTON.

- Lot 42. The Ashlands of 4a. 28p., 2a. 1r. 4p., 2a. 23p., 2a. 1r. 38p., a house and garden of 39p. Ashlands of 1a. 2r. 12p., meadow of 33p.

PERRYCROFTS, LIBERTY OF BOLEHALL.

- Lot 43. Garden of 1r. 38p., Perrycrofts of 2a. 19p. Perrycroft, with house and barn, of 1a. 2r. 18p.
- Lot 44. Perrycroft,—garden,—of 2a. 5p.; charged, in common with lots 43, 45, 46, 47, with annuities of 20s. to the bailiffs, 10s. to the curate, and 10s. to the Schoolmaster.
- Lot 45. Perrycroft,—pasture,—of 1a. 2r. 5p.
- Lot 46. Perrycroft, with a barn, of 3a. 2r. 35p.
- Lot 47. Garden of 38p., Perrycroft of 2a. 20p.

BOROUGH OF TAMWORTH AND LORDSHIP OF WIGGINTON.

- Lot 48. Two parts of the Bradford closes of 2a. 2r. 32p. and 3a. 28p.
- Lot 49. Bradford of 3a. 1r. 21p.
- Lot 50. Part of Bradford's of 3a. 1r.
- Lot 51. The remainder of the last of 3a. 35p.
- Lot 52. A cottage and garden of 2r. 8p., part of Bradford's of 3a. 15p.

BOTTOM OF LICHFIELD-STREET.

- Lot 53. A cottage and garden of 21p., a close of 2a. 2r. 2p.
- Lot 54. Nine dwelling-houses with gardens, two cottages with yards, and two gardens.

LICHFIELD-STREET.

- Lot 55. A cottage with garden of 2r. 33p.
- Lot 56. Two cottages with garden-grounds.
- Lot 57. A dwelling-house and extensive garden.
- Lot 58. A dwelling-house with a garden, and four tenements.
- Lot 59. A dwelling-house, and four tenements, all with gardens.
- Lot 60. Three dwelling-houses with a garden.

SILVER-STREET.

- Lot 61. A dwelling-house.

MARKET-STREET, NORTH SIDE.

Lot 62. A dwelling-house, another adjoining with a garden, and a third one.

Lot 63. Three dwelling-houses with gardens.

Lot 64. A dwelling-house with a garden.

MARKET-STREET, SOUTH SIDE.

Lot 65. The Castle-inn.

Lot 66. Three dwelling-houses.

Lot 67. A dwelling-house.

Lot 68. A dwelling-house and garden.

Lot 69. A dwelling-house and garden.

GEORGE-STREET.

Lot 70. A dwelling-house, once the Angel-inn, and garden ; and a house adjoining, with a garden.

Lot 71. A house and garden.

Lot 72. A house ; also a house in Bolebridge-street adjoining.

BOLEBRIDGE-STREET.

Lot 73. The White Lion public-house, with a croft.

Lot 74. Six dwelling-houses, with gardens.

Lot 75. A dwelling-house and small garden.

Lot 76. A dwelling-house.

Lot 77. Three tenements under one roof, with small gardens.

Lot 78. Three dwelling-houses, with two gardens.

Lot 79. A house and garden.

GUNGATE-STREET.

Lot 80. Four messuages with small gardens, and a cottage.

Lot 81. The New Star public-house, with a garden.

Lot 82. A cottage.

Lot 83. Three tenements under one roof.

ALDERGATE-STREET.

Lot 84. A dwelling-house and stone-yard.

Lot 85. Eight tenements adjoining each other.

CHURCH-STREET.

Lot 86. Three dwelling-houses, subject to a fee-farm rent of 4s. 8d. a-year.

Lot 87. Four dwelling-houses.

Lot 88. Four dwelling-houses.

Lot 89. The Wheat-sheaf public-house, with four small tenements.

Lot 90. Four dwelling-houses.

Lot 91. Two dwelling-houses ; with a school and an extensive building lately occupied as a carpet manufactory.

Lot 92. A dwelling-house and garden.

Lot 93. Two dwelling-houses.

COLLEGE-LANE.

Lot 94. Two dwelling-houses.

Lot 95. A dwelling-house.

LIBERTY OF THE CASTLE AND LORDSHIP OF FAZELEY.

Lot 96. The Castle-mill and appurtenances, with exclusive right of water, except the manorial rights; with the mill-dam of 1a. 2r. 10p.

LIBERTY OF THE CASTLE.

Lot 97. Seckington-meadow of 8a. 3r. 28p.

Lot 98. Castle-meadow of 13a. 3r. 4p.

DRAYTON-BASSET.

Lot 99. The Royals of 2r. 4p.

TAMWORTH.

Lot 100. A garden, with a terrace-walk along the bank of the river, with a summer-house and bowling-green, containing altogether 1a. 2r.

Note 28, page 446.

THE WILL OF THOMAS GUY, ESQ., SO FAR AS IT REGARDS
TAMWORTH.

In the name of God. Amen.

I, Thomas Guy, of the parish of St. Mary Woolnoth, in London, esquire, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, considering the uncertainty of life, do make my last will and testament in manner and form following.

* * * *

I give and devise unto my cousin George Orton, son of my cousin Mary Orton deceased, and his heirs and assigns for ever, to his and their use, all those my messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments in Tamworth and Wigginton, in the county of Stafford, or elsewhere, which I purchased of Archdale Palmer and Anne his wife.

Item, I give, devise, and bequeath unto my cousin John Voughton, grandson of uncle John Voughton, all that messuage, burgage, or tenement, lands and hereditaments, in Tamworth and Wigginton, in the county of Stafford, or elsewhere, which I purchased of his father John Voughton, to hold unto my said cousin John Voughton, his heirs and assigns for ever, to his and their use.

Item, All the rest and residue of my lands, tenements, and hereditaments, and real estate whatsoever, in the counties of Stafford, Warwick, and Derby, or any of them, other than and

except the Almshouses and library with their appurtenances herein after mentioned and devised, I give and devise unto and between Elizabeth Hurt and John Hurt, the grand-children of my late sister Anne Varnam, their heirs and assigns for ever, to hold as tenants in common and not as joint-tenants.

Item, I give and bequeath to Thomas Hurt, one of the grand-children of my late sister Anne Varnam, during his natural life, one annuity or yearly sum of one hundred and sixty pounds, which, with forty pounds per annum I am already bound to pay, makes up two hundred pounds per annum, to be paid by equal quarterly payments and to commence from my decease.

Item, I give unto my cousin John Voughton, son and heir of my said uncle John Voughton deceased, during his natural life, one annuity or yearly sum of thirty pounds, to be paid by equal half-yearly payments, to commence from the end of three kalendar months next after my decease, over and above the sum of twenty pounds per annum which I am obliged to pay him by my bond. And also I do forgive and remit unto him all monies that he doth or shall owe me at the time of my decease. as heir or executor of his late father, or otherwise howsoever.

Item, I give and bequeath unto Thomas Voughton, Humphry Voughton, and Martha Voughton, children of my said cousin John Voughton, one thousand pounds a-piece interest or share in the capital stock erected in lieu of debentures made forth for the debt due to the army by an act of Parliament passed in the fourth year of the reign of his Majesty King George, and attended with annuities after the rate of four pounds per cent. per annum.

Item, I give and bequeath unto my cousin John Weetman the father, in the county of Stafford, yeoman, son of my aunt Weetman, during his natural life, one annuity or yearly sum of fifty pounds sterling, to be paid by equal half-yearly payments to commence from the time of my decease.

Item, I give and bequeath unto Benedicts, William, Mary, Eleanor, Elizabeth, Sarah, and John, children of my said cousin John Weetman, one thousand pounds a-piece interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of the debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give and bequeath to my cousin Anne Woodcock, daughter of my said aunt Weetman, during her natural life, one annuity or yearly sum of fifty pounds sterling, to be paid by equal half-yearly payments, to commence from my decease.

Item, I give unto John Moor, William Moor, Thomas Moor, Josias Moor, and Abigail Woodcock, children of my said cousin Anne Woodcock, one thousand pounds a-piece interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give and bequeath unto William, John, Thomas, Clement, Mary, Anne, and Joseph, the children of Thomas Weetman

deceased, six hundred pounds a-piece, interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give and bequeath unto Mary, Elizabeth, and Thomas Blood, children of Thomas Blood deceased, one of the sons of my aunt Blood, one thousand pounds a-piece interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give and bequeath unto John, Thomas, Benjamin, and Samuel Mously, children of my cousin Elizabeth Shepard deceased, by her former husband, one thousand pounds a-piece interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give and bequeath unto Richard, John, and William Hudson, the children of John Hudson lighter-man deceased, and grand-children to my aunt Hudson deceased, one thousand pounds a-piece interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give and bequeath unto the widow of the said John Hudson deceased, during her natural life, one annuity of ten pounds sterling, to be paid her by equal half-yearly payments, and to commence from my decease.

Item, I give and bequeath to Mary Hill, one other of the children of the said John Hudson, one annuity or yearly sum of twenty pounds sterling, to be paid by equal half-yearly payments, during her natural life: and to James, Charles, and Sarah Hill, children of the said Mary Hill, I give and bequeath three hundred pounds a-piece, interest or share in the stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give and bequeath unto my cousin John Blood, yeoman, living in or near Tamworth, son of my aunt Johanna Blood, during his natural life, one annuity or yearly sum of fifty pounds sterling, to be paid by equal half-yearly payments, to commence from my decease.

Item, I give unto Sarah, Robert, Richard, Anne, John, and Johanna Blood, children of the said John Blood, one thousand pounds a-piece, interest or share of the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give and bequeath unto the widow of Thomas Voughton deceased, son of my uncle John Voughton, one annuity or yearly sum of ten pounds, to be paid during her natural life, by equal half-yearly payments, to commence from my decease.

Item, I give and bequeath unto the children of the said Thomas Voughton, viz. John, Timothy, Abigail, Mary, George, Sarah, Jonathan, Anne, and Benjamin, one thousand pounds a-piece interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give and bequeath unto the children of my cousin Mary Orton deceased, viz. Anne, Mary, Sarah, and Elizabeth Orton,

one thousand pounds a-piece interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give and bequeath unto John Cheatly and Mary Cheatly, the children of Mary Cheatly deceased, who was daughter of my aunt Weetman, one thousand pounds a-piece interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, to William Cheatly, husband to the said Mary Cheatly deceased, I give and bequeath, during his natural life, one annuity or yearly sum of ten pounds sterling, to be paid him by equal half-yearly payments, and to commence from my decease.

Item, I give and bequeath unto Benedicta Cheatly, another daughter of my aforesaid aunt Weetman, and now wife of John Cheatly, near Tamworth, in the aforesaid county of Stafford, yeoman, during her natural life, one annuity or yearly sum of fifty pounds sterling, to be paid her by equal half-yearly payments, to commence from my decease.

Item, I give unto the children of the said Benedicta Cheatly, viz. Lettice, Dorothy, Anne, John, William, and Mary Cheatly, one thousand pounds a-piece interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give unto my cousin Joseph Blood, in or near Tamworth aforesaid, clothier, one other of the sons of my said aunt Blood, one thousand pounds interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give and bequeath unto the children of Anne Harding deceased, who was daughter of my said aunt Blood, viz. Anne, and William, one thousand pounds a-piece interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give to Mary Alcock, wife of Arthur Alcock, clothier, another daughter of my said aunt Blood, during her natural life, one annuity or yearly sum of fifty pounds sterling, to be paid by equal half-yearly payments, to commence from my decease.

Item, I give and bequeath unto Johanna, Anne, and Sarah, the children of the said Mary Alcock, one thousand pounds a-piece interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give and bequeath unto Johanna Mitchell, wife of Benjamin Mitchell, one other of the daughters of my aforesaid aunt Blood, during her natural life, one annuity or yearly sum of fifty pounds sterling, to be paid by equal half-yearly payments, to commence from my decease.

Item, I give unto her son Joseph Mitchell, and to her daughters Elizabeth and Mary Mitchell, one thousand pounds a-piece interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give and bequeath unto Joseph Osborn, son of my aunt

Osborn, during his natural life, one annuity or yearly sum of fifty pounds sterling, to be paid by equal half-yearly payments, to commence from my decease.

Item, I give unto Sarah and Anne, daughters of the said Joseph Osborn, one thousand pounds a-piece interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give unto the two children who are now living of Elizabeth, another daughter of the said Joseph Osborn, five hundred pounds a-piece interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give and bequeath unto John Wood, currier, and Thomas Wood, hardware-man, both of Birmingham and grandchildren of Christopher Wood, two hundred and fifty pounds a-piece interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give and bequeath unto Anne Cawn widow, and late wife of Robert Cawn deceased, during her natural life, one annuity or yearly sum of twenty pounds sterling, to be paid her by equal half-yearly payments, to commence from my decease.

Item, I give and bequeath to William Cawn, tallow-chandler, son of the said Anne Cawn, two hundred and fifty pounds interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give and bequeath unto Sarah Colman, Elizabeth Silvester widow, Anne Shaw widow, Martha Lawson now wife of Lawson, and Margaret Alcock, children of Thomas Alcock late of Tamworth clothier deceased, two hundred and fifty pounds a-piece interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, to Mary Alcock, one other of the children of the said Thomas Alcock, I give and bequeath one annuity or yearly sum of twenty pounds sterling, to be paid her by equal half-yearly payments, during her natural life, and to commence from my decease.

Item, I give and bequeath unto each of the children of Jane Bayley deceased, and of Mary Stylman deceased, daughters of my late uncle Henry Voughton, five hundred pounds a-piece interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give and bequeath unto Margaret Guy, and Samuel Guy, the children of Samuel Guy late of Egham in the county of Surrey deceased, five hundred pounds a-piece interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give and bequeath unto Anne Jenkyns, daughter of Thomas Hudson deceased, one annuity or yearly sum of one hundred pounds sterling, to be paid her by half-yearly payments, during her natural life, and to commence from my decease.

Item, to the widow of Thomas Hudson deceased, I give one

annuity or yearly sum of ten pounds sterling, to be paid her by equal half-yearly payments, during her natural life, and to commence from my decease.

Item, I give and bequeath unto John Morling, son of Elizabeth Morling late of Oakingham widow deceased, five hundred pounds interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

Item, I give and bequeath unto Jane Whittaker widow, and one of the daughters of my late aunt Hudson, during her natural life, one annuity or yearly sum of fifty pounds sterling, to be paid her by equal half-yearly payments, to commence from my decease.

Item, I give and bequeath unto Anne Rowney, daughter to the aforesaid Anne Cawn, during her natural life, one annuity or yearly sum of twenty pounds, to be paid her by equal half-yearly payments, to commence from my decease.

Item, I give and bequeath unto Thomas Batman clothier, son of Joseph Batman deceased, one hundred and fifty pounds interest or share in the said stock erected in lieu of debentures, as aforesaid.

And my will is, and I do hereby direct and appoint, that the said several annuities or yearly sums hereby before bequeathed be paid from time to time by my executors herein after named or by the corporation herein after mentioned and intended, when the same shall be obtained and take effect,¹ or their treasurer for the time being, out of the residue of my estate herein after devised, or the interest, dividends, rents, or other profits thereof, during the several lives for which they are made respectively payable, as aforesaid.

And as for and concerning as well the said several annuities for life as the several shares in the said stock erected as aforesaid, in this my will given to the said Anne Woodcock, Mary Hill, Benedicta Cheatly wife of John Cheatly, Mary Alcock wife of Arthur Alcock, Johanna wife of Benjamin Mitchell, Anne Rowney, Martha Lawson, Margaret Guy, and Anne Jenkyns, I do hereby order that the said annuities and stock so given to them respectively as aforesaid, shall be paid or assigned to their own proper hands or order respectively, and their own respective receipts alone shall be sufficient discharges for the same, notwithstanding their or any their covertures.

And my mind and will is, that the said several sums or parcels of stock herein before bequeathed to my several legatees above named, who at my decease shall be under age and unmarried, shall not be paid or payable, or transferred or to be transferred by my said executors or the said intended corporation, until they shall arrive respectively the men to be of the age of twenty-one years, and the women to such age of twenty-one years or their

¹ The governors of Guy's hospital, Southwark, incorporated by act of parliament.

and of marriage, and which of them shall first happen; and that during such the infancy or single state of my said legatees respectively, my will is, that my executors hereinafter named, or the said hereinafter mentioned and intended corporation or their treasurer for the time being, allow for the maintenance and education of my said several legatees the interest, dividends, and produce of the stock to them respectively given; and also shall allow out of the respective legacies or stock of such as shall want to be put forth apprentices such sums of money as my said executors or the said intended corporation or their treasurer shall think fit, which said several allowances and sums of money shall be paid to the fathers, mothers, guardians, or masters, of such legatees respectively, and their receipts respectively shall be sufficient for the same.

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And whereas the masters, keepers, wardens and commonalty of the art or mystery of Stationers of the city of London are in and by one bond or obligation under the common seal, bearing date on or about the 3rd day of February, Anno dom. 1717, become bound unto the governors of the hospital of St. Thomas the Apostle in Southwark, in the county of Surrey, in the penal sum of five thousand five hundred pounds, conditioned for the payment of one hundred and twenty-five pounds by them and their successors for ever, by half-yearly payments, free from all manner of deduction whatsoever, in the following manner, viz. to me, the said Thomas Guy, during my natural life, and from and after my decease to such person and persons, uses, intents, and purposes, as I, by my last will and testament in writing or any other writing under my hand and seal subscribed in the presence of three or more creditable witnesses should declare, limit, and appoint, as in and by the said obligation and condition, relation being thereunto had, may more fully and at large appear:

Now I give and devise unto John Cheatly and John Blood yeomen, Joseph Blood and Arthur Alcock clothiers, Thomas Orton yeoman, John Radford, Robert Blood, and the said John Osborn citizen and stationer of London, all that my Alms-house or building containing sixteen rooms, fourteen of which said rooms are now used and employed for the habitations of fourteen poor men and women, and the other two rooms, being laid together, are used for a library, with the house-of-office, gardens, and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situated, lying, and being partly in Gungate-street, and partly in Schoolhouse-lane, in Tamworth, in the county of Warwick: to hold to them the said John Cheatly, John Blood, Joseph Blood, Arthur Alcock, Thomas Orton, John Radford, Robert Blood, and John Osborn, their heirs and assigns for ever, in trust, nevertheless, and to and for the

uses, intents and purposes hereinafter mentioned : that is to say, that my said trustees, and the survivors of them, and such others as shall succeed and be chosen in their room or place by virtue of the clauses hereinafter in that behalf mentioned, or the major part of them, shall and do, from time to time, admit and place in the said rooms fourteen poor people, men or women, inhabitants of the towns, villages, or parishes of Wilnecote, Glascote, Bolehall-street, Amington, Wigginton, and Hopwas, or any of them ; my poor relations being first admitted, in case any such shall offer themselves, whom they shall think proper objects of such charity : and as often as any of them shall die, to place others in their stead. And in case any such of the said poor persons shall misbehave themselves, my said trustees for the time being, or the major part of them, shall, from time to time, displace such and put others in their stead, as they shall think fit. And that the two rooms abovementioned to be used for a library shall continue to be so used ; or for such other uses, for the better accommodation of the persons that shall dwell in the said fourteen rooms, as the said trustees, for the time being, or the major part of them, shall think fit.

And my mind and will is, that when and so often as any of the said trustees shall happen to die, the survivors of them shall choose in another person to succeed and be a trustee ; who shall act with them, in all respects, as if he had been particularly named with the other trustees in this my will.

And to prevent any legal interest of the said last mentioned premises from going to the heir of a surviving trustee, it is my mind and will, that as often as my present or future trustees, in whom the legal estate of the same premises shall rest, shall be by death reduced to two, that such two, or the survivor of them, shall forthwith convey the same premises to such other trustees and their heirs, upon the trusts aforesaid, as my then acting trustees or the major part of them shall think fit or direct. And I do hereby order, limit, declare, and appoint that the said yearly sum of one hundred and twenty-five pounds be paid by the master and keepers, or wardens and commonalty of stationers abovementioned and their successors, by half-yearly payments, at the feast day of St. John the Baptist, and the birth of our Lord God, in every year, for ever, to my said executors, until such intended corporation as aforesaid shall be obtained and take effect ; and then to such intended corporation and their successors, to the intent that my said executors, or the said intended corporation, and their successors, do and may thereout pay the sum of one hundred and fifteen pounds per annum, part thereof, by like half-yearly payments unto the said John Cheatly, John Blood, Joseph Blood, Arthur Alcock, Thomas Orton, John Radford, Robert

Blood, and John Osborn, and the survivors of them, and such as shall succeed them as aforesaid for ever, in trust, and to and for the uses, intents, and purposes, hereinafter mentioned; that is to say, in respect of eighty pounds per annum, part of the said yearly sum of one hundred and fifteen pounds, upon trust, and to the intent that they do and shall pay thereout unto each of the said fourteen poor people and such others as shall, from time to time, be chosen in their stead, the sum of two shillings per week for their maintenance. And what shall remain out of the eighty pounds per annum over and above such weekly payments shall be expended and applied by my said trustees for reparation of the Alms-house and premises, and for such other uses relating thereto as my said trustees or the major part of them shall, from time to time, think fit and appoint.

And for and in respect of the sum of thirty-five pounds, remainder of the said yearly sum of one hundred and fifteen pounds, upon trust, and to the intent that my said last-mentioned trustees and such as shall succeed them, as aforesaid, for ever, shall and do apply the same to the putting out of children apprentice, nursing, or such like charitable deed, of four, six, or eight such poor persons of the family of the Voughtons, or Woods, or proceeding therefrom, as they shall think fit. And if none or not sufficient of such can be found, then of such other person or persons as they shall find to be proper objects of charity.

And I do hereby revoke and annul and declare to be null and void all and every other will and wills by me, at any time or times heretofore made, declaring this to be my only last will and testament: in witness whereof I have to the same set my hand and seal, on this fourth day of September, Anno Domini 1724; and in the eleventh year of the reign of our sovereign lord George over Great Britain &c., king, defender of the faith, &c.

THOMAS GUY.

The will was proved on the 4th of January, 1724-5.

Note 29, page 487.

WARDENS OF THE BRIDGE OF ST. MARY.

From the Court Rolls.

- 1436 Hugh Colman. (May 2.)
- 1456 John Bayly.
- 1458 John Bayly.
- 1470 William Irp, William Green. (Oct. 23.)
- 1488 Henry Sweetlove, John Irp. (Nov.)
- 1505 William Bear, William Houghton. (Oct. 21.)

- 1507 John Mason, Ralph Lago. (Nov.)
 1509 John Lysott, Richard Clarke. (Oct. 16.)
 1511 John Lysott, Richard Clarke. (Nov.)
 1516 Nicholas Endsore, Richard Clarke. (Oct. 18.)
 15.. Henry Draper, Henry Jenkins.

SUPPOSED ADVENTURE OF HENRY, EARL OF RICHMOND.

At pages 98 and 99 of this HISTORY, an incident is recorded as having befallen Henry, earl of Richmond, on the eve of the eventful battle of Bosworth-Field; which has excited much grave discussion, and upon which great diversity of opinion exists, among the chroniclers and historians of our country. I allude to the commonly-received belief that the Earl lost his way, and passed the night without shelter, in a state of most painful apprehension and anxiety, in following his army from Lichfield to Tamworth, on the evening, or night, of Thursday, August 18th, 1485.

In my frequent excursions across the beautiful country which lies between Lichfield and Tamworth, this strange incident has, many times, occupied my mind: and, in accordance with a wish expressed by the most distinguished statesman of his age and country, who has evinced a gratifying interest in the progress and execution of my son's work, and to whom the work is dedicated, I now proceed to investigate this curious question.

The subject of my inquiry resolves itself into two heads: *First*, Did the Earl of Richmond actually lose, or intentionally deviate from, his road, upon the memorable occasion to which I have just adverted? And, *Secondly*, what authority exists there for the statement made by the accomplished Historian of the Queens of England, that Richmond again lost his way upon Atherstone-moor, in returning from his momentous conference with the Stanleys at Atherstone, on the night of Saturday, August 20th, 1485.?

First. That Richmond sent forward his army from Lichfield to Tamworth, on Thursday the 18th of August; that he followed it, attended by a body-guard of twenty horsemen; that on, or in the vicinity of, Whittington-heath, he was met by some gentlemen who had deserted from the standard of King Richard, to unite themselves with the forces of the Earl; and that he did not rejoin his army at Tamworth, greatly alarmed by his non-appearance, till the morning of Friday the 19th, the historians of that eventful period are unanimous in affirming. Previously, however, to the discussion of the accidental or voluntary character of Richmond's deviation from his route, I will describe, as clearly and concisely as possible, the course, and principal ramifications, of the road which leads from Lichfield to Tamworth, such as it now

exists, and has probably existed from time immemorial. Some ancient charts of the country between Lichfield and Bosworth, most obligingly transmitted, by direction of the right honourable sir Robert Peel, from the British Museum, for the express purpose of assisting me in this inquiry, unfortunately throw no light upon the subject.

From Greenhill, the south-eastern portion of the city of Lichfield, the old road to Tamworth proceeds in a direction south-east by east. At the commencement of Whittington-heath, nearly two miles from Lichfield, a road diverges from it to the left. This, after passing through the village of Whittington, skirting Fisherwick-park on the south, and crossing the river Tame at Elford-bridge, terminates in the Tamworth-Burton turnpike-road, about one third of a mile south of Elford-village.

From the western boundary of Whittington-heath, the Lichfield-Tamworth road proceeds directly across it to Packington. Here, another branch strikes off from it at a nearly right angle; and passing along the eastern border of the heath, leads to Whittington-village, distant nearly a mile,—not half a mile as asserted by Hutton (*Battle of Bosworth-Field*, page —)—from the main road. This road, still pursuing its easterly direction, crosses the Tame at Hopwas-bridge; and, shortly afterwards, reaching Coton, distant one mile and a half from Tamworth, makes an abrupt turn south-east by south, and enters the ancient borough by Lichfield-street. From this sudden curve of the road at Coton, a lane proceeds to the eastward; intersects the Tamworth-Burton turnpike-road to the south of Comberford; the Tamworth and Wigginton road, about one third of a mile to the south of Wigginton-village, and terminates in the Tamworth-Ashby road, half a mile to the north of Tamworth.

Assuming it as probable that the roads between Lichfield and Tamworth have undergone no considerable alteration during the last four centuries, we may conclude, from the preceding description of them, that the only two points at which a traveller could accidentally deviate from his route, are the branching of the road to Whittington at the western extremity of the heath, and the apparent continuation of the Lichfield-Tamworth road at Coton.

Richmond, by his conduct in the battle of Bosworth, amply confirmed the character given to him by history, for a degree of prudence and circumspection bordering upon cowardice. He was evidently a cold-blooded, calculating, rapacious animal; little addicted to daring adventure or prone to indulge in the day-dreams of an elevated imagination. Hence, it is highly improbable that, except under the influence of some powerful motive, he should have ventured to traverse alone, at such a period, a part of the country to which he was a stranger; or that he should have lost

his way in one of those fits of abstraction of which the fervid and imaginative brain is alone susceptible. The darkness of the night, it must be allowed, was unfavourable to the right progress of a traveller upon a strange road : for the 18th of August of the old corresponds to the 29th of the new style ; and there was no moon.¹ Yet that the weather was warm and dry, and the sky consequently not obscured by dense clouds, may be plausibly inferred from the fact that, four days subsequently, at the close of the battle of Bosworth-field, the body of the brave but unfortunate king Richard was found covered with *dust* and blood.

What were the precise objects which induced Richmond at first to loiter in the rear of his body-guard, and subsequently to leave it altogether, it is impossible, at this distance of time, to determine. It should, however, be recollected that, at the period in question, Elford was the property of lord Stanley, the second husband of Richmond's mother. And is it not more than probable that the noble lady would, with the natural anxiety of a mother, repair thither, to meet and embrace the son whom the result of the approaching conflict would either elevate to a throne, or consign to eternal exile, or a violent and perhaps ignominious death. ? Moreover, there were many powerful families in the neighbouring country warmly, although secretly, attached to Richmond's cause : and, with the heads of some of these, he had probably arranged to confer either at the seat of his father-in-law in Elford, or at Whittington or Comberford, in his way thither. This hypothesis derives strong confirmation from the statement, explanatory of his absence, given by Richmond to his army, on the morning of his arrival at Tamworth. And, although I place no faith in the honour or veracity of a prince naturally crafty and perfidious, and whose memory is stained by an act of the foulest ingratitude ;² still would it be ungenerous to farther aggravate the deformities of Richmond's character by the imputation of a wanton falsehood. To have lost his way in an unknown country would surely have implied no disgrace ; nor could any possible good have resulted from the concealment of such an error, if it had really been committed. From a retrospect of the preceding facts, and the

1 From the best calculation at which I have been able to arrive, the moon changed on the morning of Sunday, August 31, 1485. This calculation is curiously confirmed by a passing remark of Miss Strickland, at page 25, vol IV., of the "*Lives of the Queens of England*."

2 On the 16th of February, 1495, Sir William Stanley was judicially slaughtered by that monarch upon whose graceless head he had, ten short years before, on the field of Bosworth, been mainly instrumental in placing the crown of England. See Henry, *History of Great Britain*, fifth edition, vol. XI., page 41 ; and Hutton, *Battle of Bosworth-Field*, page 113. Such is the gratitude of Princes. Unhappily, however, the page of history is slurred with numerous instances, equally revolting, of regal heartlessness or atrocity. The virtuous, the venerable and accomplished Sir Thomas More terminated a long life of undeviating fidelity and devotion to the interests of his sovereign, upon the scaffold. Columbus returned, in chains, from the discovery of a world.

reasonings founded upon them, I am, therefore, induced to conclude that *the deviation of Henry, earl of Richmond, from the route of his army, between Lichfield and Tamworth, on Thursday, the 18th of August, 1485, was voluntary, not accidental.*

With respect to the *second* division of my inquiry, I, perhaps, cannot do better than transcribe part of a letter, addressed by me, some weeks ago, to Miss Strickland, the celebrated authoress of "*The Lives of the Queens of England*," and exhibit a concise but correct summary of the explanations, with which that lady has been pleased to favour me. The following is an accurate transcript of the first, and most essential portion of my letter to her.

Birmingham, November 6th, 1845.

"Madam,

In the fourth Volume of your very interesting "*Lives of the Queens of England*," is related a strange and perilous adventure said to have befallen Henry, Earl of Richmond, in his return across Atherstone-Moor, from his memorable interview with the Stanleys at Atherstone, to the camp at Tamworth, on the night of Saturday, August the 20th, 1485. For the authenticity of this narrative, you refer the reader to the historical writings of Hutton, Speed, Guthrie, and Rapin. Strangely enough, however, I have ransacked the volumes of all these authors, except that of Guthrie, which I have, hitherto, been unable to procure, without discovering the slightest allusion to the adventure, so pleasingly introduced by you. I shall, therefore, esteem it as an especial favour if you will take the trouble of pointing out to me the particular editions of the works of Hutton, Speed, and Rapin, referred to in the foot-note at page 25 of your fourth volume.

It is a fact established by the concurrent testimony of nearly all the historians who have written upon the eventful period in question, that Richmond either lost, or intentionally deviated from, his road, in the march between Lichfield and Tamworth, on the night of Thursday, preceding the battle of Bosworth. Upon this point, Rapin, *Histoire d'Angleterre*, tome IV., page 373, Kenneth, *History of England*, vol I., page 510, and Hutton, *Battle of Bosworth-field*, page 52, with many other writers whom I might readily quote, supply conclusive evidence. And it is surely most improbable that Richmond, a man who never, on any previous or subsequent occasion, exhibited the marks of a daring or chivalrous spirit, should have, twice within forty-eight hours, exposed his person and his cause to the most imminent peril, in traversing, alone, an unknown country, accessible to the scouts and foraging-parties of a near and inveterate enemy.

As, at least, a plausible solution of the present difficulty, it has, therefore, struck me that the writer, whoever he may be, upon whose authority you have narrated the perilous adventure, and fortunate escape, of Richmond, must have confounded Whittington-beath, a large tract of uncultivated land lying upon the road between Lichfield and Tamworth, with "Atherstone-Moor," a place of whose name or situation, neither history nor tradition have, I believe, preserved a vestige; and erroneously transferred the date of the incident from Thursday the 18th, to Saturday the 20th of August, 1485. I am, moreover, strongly inclined to believe that Richmond did not retrace his steps to Tamworth after his conference with the Stanleys. At Atherstone, he was seven or eight miles nearer to the enemy than he would have been at Tamworth. Time was precious to the Earl. "The forces of the two brothers had, on that day"—Saturday the 20th,—"marched towards the field," and Richmond's troops "had already entered Atherstone." Hutton, again, distinctly intimates that Richmond lay one night,—which must have

been that of Saturday the 20th,—at Atherstone. On Sunday, the 21st, the armies are represented as having "been in view of each other the whole day:" and it is scarcely probable that, at such a momentous crisis, Richmond, coward as he seems to have been, should have absented himself from his post."

The letter concludes with an explanation of the motives by which I had been impelled to write it; and by a suitable apology for the intrusion of a stranger upon the lady's time and notice.

To this letter, I received, on the 27th of November, a loosely-written and not very satisfactory reply. In it, Miss Strickland merely refers, for the authenticity of the controverted statement, to a rare English edition of Rapin's History;¹ mentions "an ancient chronicle in which the adventure is more particularly dwelt upon, with a good many local particulars;" and concludes by stating that the edition of Hutton referred to in her foot-note, was obtained from a public library.

Of the ancient chronicle adverted to by Miss Strickland, I, of course, know nothing. Guthrie's work I have not been able to procure. But I fearlessly re-iterate the assertion advanced in my letter to that lady, that neither the common editions of Hutton or of Speed, nor the works of any British historian which I have been able to consult, contain the slightest allusion to the strange adventure of Henry, earl of Richmond, on Atherstone-moor, so circumstantially detailed by Miss Strickland: and, as it is assuredly not mentioned in an original copy of Rapin's History, now lying open before me, nor in the first octavo edition of Tindal's English translation of that work, it appears highly improbable that it should have found admission into the second; as stated by Miss Strickland. Still, in justice to that lady's character as an historian, I must admit that I have not yet had the opportunity of consulting the particular edition of Tindal's work to which Miss Strickland has so obligingly referred.

After all, however painful it may be to impugn the accuracy of the most distinguished female historian of our country, I cannot suppress my suspicion that, on the subject of the strange adventure which is said to have befallen Henry, earl of Richmond, in his way across Atherstone-moor, on the night of Saturday, August 20th, 1485, some flagrant error, with respect to time and place, must assuredly have been committed; nor my deliberate conviction *that there exists, in the works of the more reputable and trustworthy historians of our country, no good authority for Miss Strickland's extraordinary narrative.*

Shirley Palmer, M.D.

Birmingham,
December 27th, 1845.

¹ Tindal's Translation of Rapin, *Histoire d'Angleterre*. Second edition, folio.

THE INDEX.

- & Court. 170, 233, 237.—Pedigree of the family. 238.
 Address to queen Anne. 507.
 Agate or Agas-lane. 187.
 Agatewater-leader, account of. 187.
 Aids and tallages. 57.
 Aisle of the Church, North. 248, 258, 267, 286.—Description
 of. 245.
 South. 240, 253, 267, 288, 289.—Descrip-
 tion of. 249.
 Aldergate-street. 181, 182, 192, 196, 200, 201, 202, 322, 421,
 423, l.—Account of. 180.
 Aldermen. 144, 156, 166.—List of. xxxi.
 Almshouses. 148, 178, 193, 196, 200, 468, 484, lii, lvii, lviii, lix.
 —Account of. 447.
 Anker river. 1, 6, 187, 188, 191, 307, 393, 401, 421, 486,
 494, 499.—Course of the. 7.
 Arms.—Angus, earl of. 414.
 Basset. 277, 278, 299.
 Bates. 290.
 Beardsley. 291.
 Beauchamp. 278.
 Beaumont. 500.
 Bohun. 411.
 Botetourt. 278.
 Bott. 291.
 Bourchier. 412.
 Bradbourne. 408.
 Broome. 411.
 Bruce. 407, 414.
 Carleton. 295, 409.
 Chester, earl of. 407.
 Cholmley. 289.
 Clare. 277.
 Clarke. 293.
 Clifford. 408.
 Clinton. 277.
 Cockain. 408.

- Arms.—Comberford. 290, 500.
Comin, earl of Buchan. 501.
Compton. 409.
Cotton. 281.
Devereux. 412.
Everingham. 501.
Eyre. 415.
Ferrers. 277, 295, 406, 407, 411.
Fitzherbert. 501.
France and England. 277.
Frevile. 277.
Galloway, earl of. 414.
Gray. 412.
Grealey. 291.
Hampden. 411.
Harper. 408.
Hastings. 86, 408.
Heckstall. 415.
Heronville. 500.
Huntingdon, earl of.
Hyde. 415.
Knowles. 412.
Leventhorp. 500.
Longford. 408.
Lovaine. 407.
Marmyon. 295, 350, 409.
Mountford. 295.
Mucegros. 411.
Okeover. 413.
Packington. 409.
Peverell. 407.
Figot. 295, 408.
Plantagenet. 277.
Poinings. 408.
Puckering. 294, 409.
Quinci. 407.
Repington. 281.
Roche. 412.
Segrave. 407.
Shirley. 409.
Somerville. 415.
Spencer. 412.
Stafford. 278.
Stafford, earl of. 412.
Stamford. 281.
Stanley. 408.

- Arms.—Stewart.** 414.
 Suffolk, earl of. 414.
 Sutton, lord Dudley. 501.
 Thomas of Woodstock. 410.
 Townshend. 410.
 Ufford. 407.
 Verdon. 407.
 Vere. 410, 501.
 Vernon. 289.
 Walsingham. 413.
 Warren. 277.
 Washington. 413.
 White. 411.
 Willington. 294.
 Windsor. 411.
Assessors, list of. xxxiii.
 deputy, list of. xxxiv.
Association, Voluntary armed. 151, 441.
Auditors, list of. xxxiii.
Bage. 303.
Bailey's Fellowship. 425.
Bailiffs. 106, 107, 108, 112, 113, 119, 120, 140, 141, 142, 143,
 144, 145, 146, 211, 212, 234, 235, 236, 426, 427, 431, 434,
 450, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 462, 465, 470, 471, 472,
 474, 475, 477, 478, 482, 487, 504, 505, 506, 507, xv, xxvii,
 xxviii, xxix.—Charges against some. 117, xvi.—List
 of. xviii.
Bailiffs, high. 102, 103, 104, 105, 176, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182,
 183, 184, 185, 186.—List of. i.
Bailiffs, low. 102, 103, 108.—List of. iv.
Ballad of the Tanner of Tamworth. 92.
 of sir Launcelot and sir Tarquin. 418.
Banks, commercial. 154.
Barley-market. 187, 390.
Bars of the town. 182, 183, 186, 421, 422.
Bayly's grave. 179.
Beckmore. 184, 471.
Bell-lane, account of. 186.
Blake. 234.
Bolebridge-street. 155, 188, 192, 196, 200, 201, 202, 208, 322,
 388, 390, 391, 396, 421, 422, 423.—Account of. 191.
Bradford. 184.
Bradford-street, account of. 184.
Bridges. 148, 156, 486.
 Bolebridge. 90, 187, 191.—Account of. 491.—War-
 dens of. 491, 492.

- Bridges. St. Mary's Bridge. 158, 161, 164, 171, 185, 395, 422, 423, 484, 491.—Account of. 487.—Wardens of. 487, lix.
- Broad-meadows. 184.
- Bull-baiting. 190.
- Bull-ring, account of. 188.
- Bull-stake. 188, 189, 190.
- Bullstake-street. 187, 189.
- Bullstake-well. 188.
- Butcher-street. 210, xxxvii.—Account of. 176.
- Butchery. 176.
- Carrefour, account of. 182.
- Caldeford-meadow. 184.
- Canons. See prebendaries.
- Castle. 89, 71, 89, 105, 115, 120, 121, 123, 129, 131, 132, 148, 149, 157, 159, 161, 163, 170, 186, 187, 254, 273, 278, 297, 318, 320, 421, 422, 443, 491, 499, xlii, xliii, xlv, xlv, xlv.
- History of. 323.
- Description of. 398.
- Castle-court. 390.
- Castle-green. 165, 186.
- Castle-inn. 150, 312, 393, l.
- Castle-lane. 181, 423.
- Castle-liberty. 196, 200, 201, 202, 204, 205, 390, 393, 394, 443, 477, xlv, li.
- Castle-mills. 115, 149, 208, 374, 380, 395.
- Castle-orchard. 180, 181, 423.
- Castle-park. See Leawood-park.
- Cat-lane, account of. 181.
- Catch-holme. 189.
- Cemetery. See Church-yard.
- Chamberlains. 102, 103, 108, 138, 141, 189.—Lists of. viii. xxv.
- Championship Royal. 326, 327, 352, 353, 354, 355, 357, 359, 360, 520.
- Chancel of the Church. 256, 258, 265, 266, 293, 300, 303, 304, 520.—Description of. 260.
- Chuntries in the Church.
- Dean Bates' chantry. 512.
- Royal chantry of Henry VI. 510.
- Chantry-chapel. 240, 262, 297, 298, 304, 494.—Description of. 265.
- Chapel, Roman Catholic. 174, 181, 423.—Account of. 321.
- Charities left to the town. 450.
- Charter of Charles II. 140.

- Charity, Ashley's. 462.
 Ashmore's. 474.
 Bath's, marquis of. 478.
 Bayly's. 455.
 Beardsley's Elizabeth. 478.
 ——— Elizabeth. 464.
 ——— Richard. 463.
 Blood's. 476.
 Bradock's. 453.
 Budd's. 463.
 Cheatle's. 456, 457.
 Chesterfield's, earl of. 459.
 Clobury's, lady. 472.
 Cope's. 455.
 Dones's. 480.
 Drayton's. 458.
 Ferrers'. 457.
 Finney's. 455.
 Gough's. 465.
 Green's. 458.
 Harcourt's. 477.
 Knight's. 482.
 Langley's. 472.
 Matthews'. 479.
 Michell's, Elizabeth. 471.
 ——— Henry. 457.
 ——— Rebecca. 470.
 Nethersole's. 462.
 Northampton's, earl of. 477.
 Orton's. 477.
 Osburn's. 470.
 Port's. 475.
 Rawlet's. 441, 446, 466.
 Repington's. 453.
 Smith's. 459.
 Suckley's. 451.
 Symond's. 469.
 Vaughton's, John. 464.
 ——— Richard. 462.
 Welch's. 471.
 Wightwick's. 454.
 Willington's, Ann. 476.
 ——— Thomas. 476.
 Wilson's. 481.
 Charity-trustees. 434, 435, 450, 453, 454, 455, 457, 458, 459,
 462, 471, 478, 479.

- Charter, Edward III's, for fairs. 90.
 Elizabeth's first. 105.
 Elizabeth's second. 112, 229, 426.
 James II's. 144.
 Charters for paving the town. 90.
 Charters, Anglo-Saxon, signed at Tamworth. 19, 21, 26, 31.
 Choir of the Church. 240, 241.
 Church. 1, 14, 113, 148, 151, 155, 157, 158, 159, 181, 211,
 320, 368, 372, 397, 425, 459, 461, 463, 470, 472, 478, 479,
 480, 481, 494, 499, 510, 519, ix, *xxxi*, *xxxvii*, *xl*iii, *xliv*.
 Description of. 240.
 History of. 213.
 Church-lane. 196, 200, 201, 202, 391, 453, 466, 467.
 Church-street. 159, 176, 177, 180, 181, 182, 186, 187, 196,
 200, 201, 202, 388, 391, 396, 439.—Account of 175.
 Church-yard or Cemetary. 176, 179, 252, 267, 271, 272, 306,
 439.—Account of. 311.
 Churchwardens. 168, 179, 251, 275, 450, 460, 461, 464, 465,
 469, 470, 471, 473, 474, 476, 479, 480, 481.—List of. *xxxix*.
 Civil war of the 17th cent. 121.
 Cocket's lane. 192, 509.
 Colehill. 158, 391, 423, 443.—Account of. 188.
 College. See Deanery and Prebends.
 College-house. 229, 230, 234, 235, 441.
 College-lane. 187, 196, 200, 201, 202, 396, 441, 509, li.
 Comberford. 70, 119, 120, 230, 240, 290, 300, 493, 494, *xxvii*.
 Compton. 376, 378, 379, 402, 406.
 Constables. 102, 103.—List of. ix.
 Convent. 43, 47, 313, 323.—Account of. 315.
 Councillors, town. 156, 166.—List of. *xxxii*.
 Cross. See Stone-cross.
 Cross-street. 188, 210.
 Crypt of the Church, description of. 252.
 Cucking-stool. 73, 190, 191.
 Danes destroy Tamworth. 36, 46.
 Dead-lanes. 422.—account of. 192.
 Deanery. 211, 227, 228, 229, 231.
 Deanery-house. 176, 179, 215, 231.—Account of. 313.
 Deans. 176, 216, 217, 221, 223, 224, 226, 276, 298, 365, 368,
 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, *xxxiv*, *xxxv*.
 Dean's barn. 181.
 Dean's pool. 181.
 Defence, subscriptions for the National. 152, *xxix*.
 Doomsday, mention of Tamworth in. 51, 52.
 Editha, St., patroness of the Church. 42, 43, 211, 283, 301.—
 Conjectures as to her identity. See Convent.

- Ellergate. See Aldergate.
 Ethelfræda rebuilds Tamworth and dies here. 39.
 Fair, St. Edward's. 90, 107, 212.
 St. George's. 90, 107, 212.
 St. Swithen's,—properly St. Editha's. 112, 211, 216.
 Fairs. 144, 155,—Account of. 211.
 Fee-farm rent of Tamworth. 64, 66, 82, 89, 91, 106, 111, 119, 511.
 Ferrers. 56, 62, 88, 105, 113, 120, 121, 130, 142, 182, 189, 190, 218, 221, 222, 262, 278, 279, 294, 295, 296, 297, 300, 303, 325, 347, 361, 362, 376, 400, 401, 406, 416, 442, 457, 459, 484, 494, 505, 513 ix, xi, xii, xiv, xvi, xxxvi, xlv, xlvii.
 Account of the family. 363.
 Pedigree of the family. 363.
 Fire at the Castle-inn. 312.
 Frankland's Scholarship. 431.
 Frevile. 89, 130, 176, 181, 182, 183, 185, 188, 192, 216, 217, 219, 297, 301, 337, 339, 346, 347, 365, 519, xliii, xlv, xlv.
 Account of the family. 350.
 Pedigree of the family. 362.
 Gaol. 156, 485.
 Gas-light and Coke company. 155.
 George, Holy Guild of St. 249, 425, 448.
 George-street. 158, 160, 164, 188, 191, 193, 196, 200, 201, 202, 390, 391, 393, 396, 401.—Account of. 187.
 Green. 431.
 Gumppeyerde. 178.
 Gungate or Gumpigate. 176, 178, 179, 180, 186, 188, 192, 193, 196, 200, 201, 202, 210, 391, 421, 422, 423, 443, 444, 446, 447, 448, 464, 465, 467, 474, l, lvii.
 Account of. 177.
 Guy. 429, 443, 446, 447, 448, 468, li, lvii, lix.
 Hastings. 89, 331, 345, 503, 504. See also Pembroke, earl of.
 Account of the family. 64.
 Pedigree of. 88.
 High-street. 175.
 Holloway. 185, 393, 421.
 Holy-well, the. 509.
 Hopwas, family of. 181, 183, 218, vi, xxxv.
 Horse-fair. 493.
 King-street. 186.
 King's ditch, or Offa's dyke. 17, 160, 185, 188, 189, 194, 422.
 Lady-bridge. See Bridge.
 Lady-bridge-bank. 164, 196, 402, 445.—Account of. 185.
 Ladybridge-street. 185, 186, 421.
 Lady-mills. 395.

- Leawood or Castle park. 380, 393.
 Leicester, earl of. 256, 312. See Townshend.
 Letters. Earl of Essex to Richard Bagot, 1592. 116.
 The bailiffs to the earl of Essex, 1592. 504.
 Sir Humphry Ferrers to Lord Buckhurst, 1602, xiv.
 Earl of Denbigh to the parliament-committee at Coventry, 1643-4. 132.
 The commanders of Tamworth to the parliament-committee at Coventry, 1643-4. 133-4.
 The parliament-committee at Coventry to the bailiffs, 1644. 505.
 The bailiffs' reply. 506.
 Tho. Hunt to Henry Bagot, 1644. 134.
 Sir Walter Scott to Thomas Bramall, 1828. 419.
 The rt. hon. sir Robert Peel to the town-clerk of Tamworth, 1837. 488.
 The rt. hon. sir Robert Peel to the mayor of Tamworth, 1843.
 Shirley Palmer, M.D., to Miss Strickland, 1845. lxiii.
 Library, permanent. 154.
 Lichfield-street. 159, 184, 185, 196, 200, 201, 202, 221, 322, 391, 392, 396, 397, 421, 422, 423, 439, 483, 493, 494, 499.
 xlix.—Account of. 182.
 Lights. keepers of the.—List of. lix.
 Littleton. 494, 495, 496, 497, 498.
 Longevity, instances of at Tamworth. 199.
 Ludgate-lane. 396.—Account of. 184.
 Lunn's entry. 186.
 Magistrates. 166.
 Market. 107, 155, 186, 187, 210.
 Market-cross. 187, 190.
 Market-place. 160, 164, 176, 187, 210, 305, 398, 403, 484.—
 Account of. 186.
 Market-street. 158, 164, 186, 196, 400, 401, 202, 390, 393, 396, 401, 483, 484 l.—Account of. 186.
 Marmyon. 58, 71, 89, 102, 130, 187, 216, 231, 278, 301, 320, 358, 362, 509, xlii, xliii.
 Account of the family. 323.
 Pedigree of the family. 350.
 Mayors. 144, 156, 158, 164, 165, 166, 167, 169, 171, 172.—
 List of. xxxi.
 Meeting house, Baptist. 184, 322.
 Friends'. 322.
 Independent. 181, 322.
 Methodists. 192, 322.
 Unitarian. 188, 322, 519.

- Members of Parliament. See Parliamentary representatives.
 Minister, Unitarian. 322.
 Mintage, royal. 47, 503.
 Moat-hall or house. 120, 184, 387, 396.—Account of. 493.
 Monuments and tombstones in the Church. 262.—Account of. 285.
 Moor-lane. 184.
 Mortein. 337, 348, 349, 350, xliii.
 National School. See School.
 Nave of the Church. 240, 244, 256, 265, 267, 268, 284, 286.
 —Description of. 241.
 New Church-lane.—Account of. 179.
 New College-lane. 179, 312.
 Offa builds a palace at Tamworth. 17.
 Offa's dyke. See King's ditch.
 Old Church lane.—Account of. 179.
 Outwall-street. 182, 183, 422.
 Parish-register. 110, 118, 119, 120, 121, 179, 195, 197, 245, 365, 494.—Account of. 304.
 Park, Great. 390.
 Parliamentary representation of Tamworth. 58, 109, 116, 138, 140, 142, 145, 155, xxvii.
 Parliamentary representatives. 142, 145, 146, 428, 437, 438, 447, 504, 507, xxiv, xxvii.—List of. xi.
 Parson's lane. 181, 182.
 Pedigree.—à Court. 238.
 Ferrers. 363.
 Frevile. 362.
 Hastings. 88.
 Marmyon. 350.
 Peel. 436.
 Repington. 231.
 Townshend. 377.
 Willington. 129.
 Wolferstan. 496.
 Peel. 149, 151, 154, 157, 158, 159, 160, 162, 163, 165, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 185, 207, 210, 312, 402, 459, 462, 467, 485, 488, xiv, xxiii.
 Peel-street. 196, 200, 322.—Account of. 184.
 Pembroke, earls of. See also Hastings.—Account of. 77.
 Perrycroft-gate. 193.
 Perrycroft-lane. 422.—Account of. 192.
 Pillory. 72, 190, 191.
 Pinfold. 190.
 Plague. 110, 118, 119, 121.
 Poor-house. 196, 200, 443, 444.

- Population of the town and parish.—Account of. 195.
 Porch of the Church, North. 244, 246.—Description of. 246.
 South. 250.
 Prebendaries or Canons. 183, 186, 192, 218, 220, 223, 224,
 225, 226, 510.
 Prebends. 211, 217, 218, 219, 220, 227, 228, 229, 394, 510,
 xliii, xlv.
 Priest of the R. Catholic Chapel. 322.
 Priest's lane. 181, 182.
 Quern-mills. 115.
 Railroad.—Birmingham and Derby. 1, 156, 160, 193, 210.
 Churnet-valley. 210.
 Trent-valley. 210.
 Recorders. 112, 141, 143, 428, 504, 507, xv, xxix.—List of.
 xxiv.
 Repington. 211, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237,
 238, 239, 279, 281, 289, 299, 302, 304, 305, 310, 428, 442,
 443, 453, 457, iv, xxxvi. xlii.
 Pedigree of the family. 231.
 Revolt of Tamworth. 41.
 Richmond, Henry earl of, at Tamworth. 97, lx.
 Rivers. See Anker and Tame.
 Robin-hood. 4, 60, 468.
 Robins. 383, 386, 387, 388, 389, 391, 392, 393, 397, 403, 499.
 Roman-roads. 14.
 Sacramental wine, chartered provision for. 513.
 St. John's street, account of. 181.
 Salter-street or lane. 15.—Account of. 180.
 Savings-bank. 154.
 School, Free Grammar. 113, 148, 180, 462, 467, 469,—Ac-
 count of. 425.
 Masters. 307, 310, 311, 425, 427, 431, 432, 433, 434,
 435, 457, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 477,
 480, 481.
 National. 170, 187, 468.—Account of. 440.
 Peel's. 183.—Account of. 436.
 Schoolhouse-lane. 192, 421, 447, lvii.
 Schoolmaster's lane. 179, 180.
 Seal of the Church. 222, 513.
 Of the town. 160.
 Segoris-gate, account of. 188.
 Sergeants at Mace. 107, 108.
 Shirley. 375, 376, 401, 409, 413.
 Silver-street. 182, 185, 196, 200, 201, 202, 391, 393, xlix.—
 Account of. 185.
 Spinning-school. 442, 443, 449, 470, 472.
 Lane. 465.

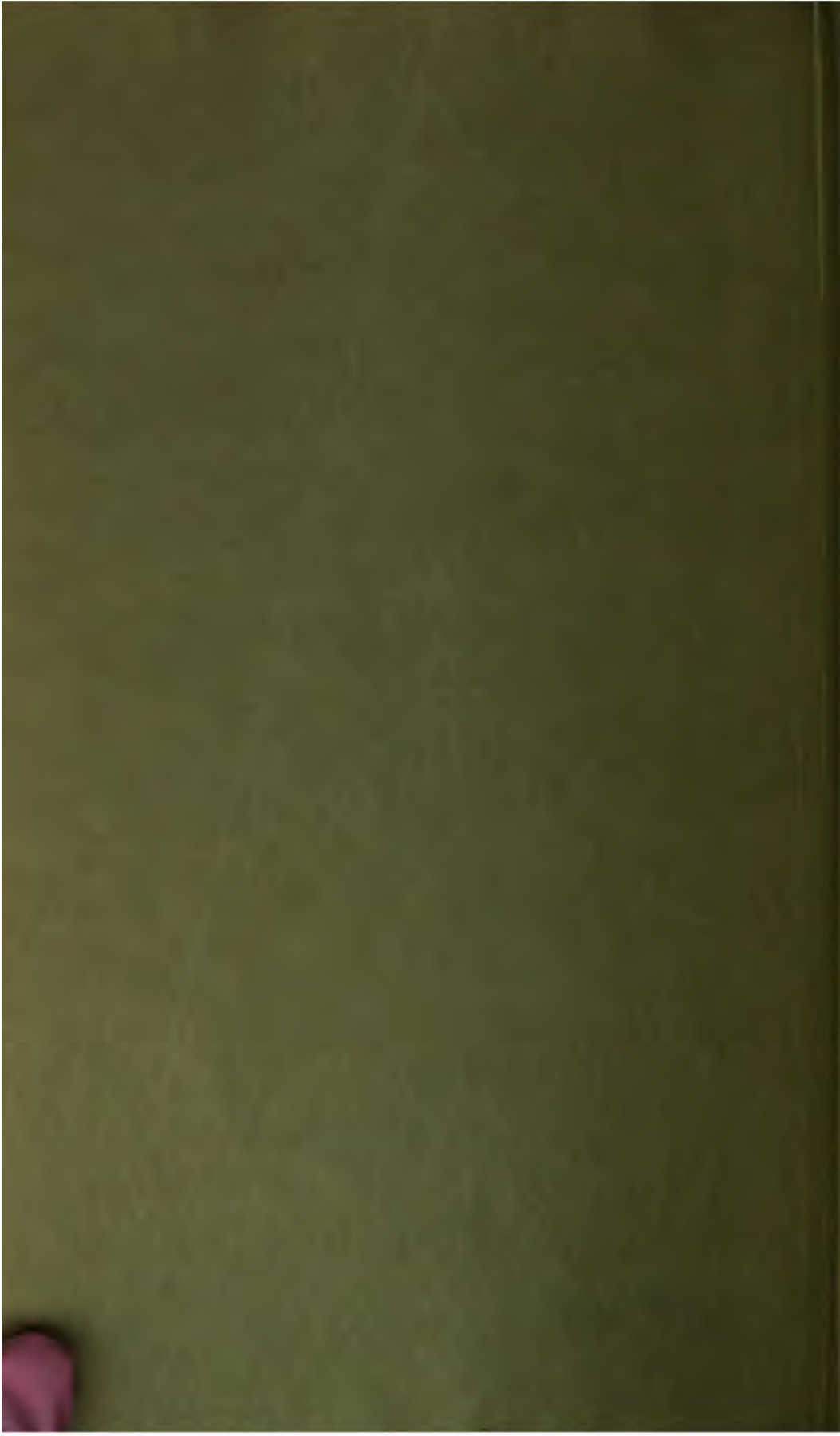
- State of the town, account of. 175.
- Stewards, high. 102, 104, 105, 112, 113, 114, 115, 141, 143, 427, 433, 507, ix, x, xi, xiv, xv, xvi, xxix.—List of. xxiii.
low. 102, 104, xvi, xviii.
- Stockwall-meadow. 184.
- Stone-cross. 188, 210.—Account of. 176.
- Stony-lane. 457.—Account of. 178.
- Swine-market. 176.
- Tame-river. 1, 7, 8, 183, 184, 394, 395, 421, 422, 423, 445, 486, 488, 494, 499. Course of the. 5.
- Tamworth Farmer's Club. 209.
- Tamworth.—General history. 13.
Green. 493, 500.
Name of. 9.
Situation of. 1.
Staffordshire part, history of. 64, 119.
Warwickshire part, history of. 89.
- Tasters or victual-conners. 102, 103, 108.—List of. v.
- Theatre. 150, 176.
- Tokens. 138, 141, 252, 153.
- Tower of the Church. 240, 244, 283.—Description of the. 267.
- Town-clerks. 112, 131, 141, 144, 146, 158, 293, 310, 311, 464, 477, 507, xv, xxix.—List of. xxiii, xxxiv.
- Town-hall. 119, 148, 150, 157, 158, 160, 164, 169, 170, 173, 183, 186, 187, 191, 440, 447.—Account of the. 483.
- Town-walls, account of the. 421.
- Townshend. 151, 163, 243, 256, 396, 397, 402, 403, 406, 410, 411, 499, 520, xiv, xxiii.
Account of the family of. 376.
Pedigree of the family of. 377.
- Trade of Tamworth. 149.—Account of. 207.
- Transept of the Church, North. 240, 245, 256, 257, 265, 289.
—Description of the. 257.
South. 240, 249, 256, 257, 261, 263, 291, 304.—Description of the. 257.
—Painting in the. 260, 281, 515.
- Treasurers. xxxiv.
- Vestry of the Church. 240, 258, 261, 263, 266, 277.—Account of. 266.
- Vicarage. 227 to 238.
- Vicars of the Church. 220, 221, 229, 230, 510, xxxvii, xxxviii.
- Vicars, Ministers, or Preachers of the Church. 168, 170, 227, 228, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 301, 305, 307, 309, 310, 311, 431, 440, 441, 450, 451, 454, 460, 461, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 480, 481, xxxviii.

- Victoria-road. 322.—Account of. 193.
 Visits to Tamworth, Royal. Adelaide. 157.
 Henry II. 56.
 James I. and Prince Charles. 120.
 Victoria. 159.
 Walfurlong. 181, 183, 421, 423.
 Watchmen of the Church. 272.
 Town. 102, 103, 104, 272, x, xi.
 Waterleader. 187.
 Weanlake. 184.
 Whiston. 234, 427.
 Willington. 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 293, 303, 382, 384, 386,
 428, 429, 455, 476, 480, 481, 499, xxi, xxii, xxiv, xxvi, xxix.
 —Pedigree of the family. 129.
 Windows of the Church, stained glass in the. 277.
 Wolferston or Wolferstan. 135, 287, 291, 303, 311, 403, 428,
 429, 465, 466, 499, xxiv.—Pedigree of the family. 496, 498.
 Workhouse. 148, 185, 196, 200, 206, 477.—Account of the.
 442.
 Wyborne-lane. 184, 185, 422.—Account of. 184.

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